Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD231415 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Shamir Remarks—"Peace may be harmed" if no consideration is taken of Israel's "reservations" about the U.S. peace proposals, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted in a speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio following his return to Israel. He said U.S. leaders understand that any process of promoting peace in the Middle East can only succeed if Israel and the United States proceed "hand in hand with coordination and full cooperation." Attempts by "various sides" to drive a "wedge" between Israel and the United States did not succeed and were rejected by the U.S. Administration, Shamir added.

On other aspects of his talks with U.S. leaders, Shamir confirmed that they exchanged views on the appearance of "sophisticated, long-range missiles" in the region, adding that the United States and Israel take a "very grave" view of this, and that efforts are under way to "tackle" it. The two sides also discussed the plight of Soviet Jews, he said, noting Israel's desire to give action on this issue a "special direction" that will lead the Jews who leave the USSR "directly to Israel."

Occupied Territories—Another Arab was killed by IDF soldiers during a riot the night of 21 March, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that this brings to 100 the number killed in the riots. A Gaza resident and an IDF soldier were wounded during other disturbances 22 March. The radio also indicated that law enforcement is breaking down in the Gaza Strip following the resignation of local Arab policemen, noting that dozens of complaints about crimes are being received but cannot be dealt with.

On measures to combat the uprising, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a Knesset committee that some 3,000 inhabitants of the territories are currently under detention in military prisons and that the transfer of funds through the Jordan River bridges has been almost halted, according to Jerusalem radio. He also announced that Israeli civilians who are attacked by Molotov cocktails are entitled to fire at their assailants if the latter are lone individuals and not part of large crowds. A Defense Ministry spokesman subsequently clarified Rabin's remarks by stressing that permission for civilians to open fire is given only to those whose lives are endangered, the radio noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran fired a surface-to-surface missile at a "military center" in Baghdad 23 March in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities the previous day, the IRGC announced in a statement reported by IRNA. Iraqi military statements carried by Baghdad and Voice of the Masses radio had announced one missile strike on Tehran 22 March, as well as air raids on seven Iranian cities, including Tabriz, Dezful, and Shushtar. Tehran radio reported that "a number" of Iranian civilians were killed or wounded in these "savage" attacks. The radio also claimed that an Iraqi MiG-25 was shot down by antiaircraft missiles near Tabriz. However, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied the claim, affirming that all Iraqi planes returned safely to base.

GCC-Iranian Relations

The GCC states have set a number of conditions for a dialogue with Iran, including a demand that Iran stop meddling in their domestic affairs and pledge not to take hostile action against them, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah revealed in remarks cited by KUNA. He told Kuwaiti journalists that if such conditions are met, "everyone will be able to resolve problems through diplomatic channels." Kuwait is planning to send two diplomats to work at its embassy in Tehran as soon as the current war of the cities ends, he added, and an exchange of visits between officials of the two countries is "possible."

Iraq

A "military industries organization affiliated with the RCC" and headed by an official with cabinet-level rank was established by law, INA announced. The new governmental organ will be responsible for aiding the armed forces by promoting "military industrialization," and it is empowered to open domestic and foreign branch offices.

According to presidential decrees carried by Voice of the Masses radio, Colonel Husayn Kamil, who was named to head the new organization, was concurrently appointed acting minister of industry and minerals after the incumbent was relieved of his duties. The heavy industries minister was also designated an adviser in the presidential office.

Syria

The Syrian Armed Forces recently received another consignment of MiG-29 warplanes, according to a 23 March report in the Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y. The paper recalled that Syria received a previous consignment 5 months ago and that Iraq also has such aircraft.

Jordan

King Husayn held talks with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq in Islamabad 22 March, Amman television reported, adding that the talks covered "issues of concern" including the Palestinian question, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, and bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri stated earlier that the Afghan issue would be among the topics discussed, according to Amman radio. "Authoritative" sources in Amman cited by the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD asserted that Husayn's visit

to Pakistan is linked with a Jordanian move to persuade Pakistan to accept the idea of forming a national reconciliation government in Afghanistan, Abu Dhabi radio noted. Husayn is proposing that the formation of such a government should coincide with the return of Afghan refugees, the report added.

In another development, Husayn cabled Saudi King Fahd to express Jordan's "vigorous support" for Saudi Arabia in the face of Israeli "threats," Amman radio reported. The cable affirmed that "any aggression against Saudi Arabia will be viewed as an aggression against Jordan," which will stand "strongly and decisively" by the Saudi Kingdom.

ICO Conference

The ICO foreign ministers conference meeting in Amman expressed solidarity with the "heroic uprising" of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, according to a statement published in the JORDAN TIMES 23 March. The uprising has exposed Israel's "fascist practices and its aggressive, expansionist goals," the statement asserted. While condemning the Israeli "campaign of oppression, intimidation, and murder," the statement called on all international organizations to "side with legitimacy and justice" and make efforts to end the Israeli occupation and to contribute to a "comprehensive peace" in the Mideast. The ICO member states also reaffirmed their "determination to provide material, political, and moral support" to the Palestinians in the territories and to the PLO.

Sudan-Ethiopia

Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Miriam and Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met in Djibouti for "private talks" on bilateral relations, Addis Ababa radio reported, noting that the consultations came on the sidelines of a meeting of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development. The Sudanese-Ethiopian joint committee also held "extensive and contructive talks" in Djibouti, the station added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

UAE's Zayid 'To Arrange' Egypt-Libya Talks

JN19/629 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
17 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo—AL-ANBA' has learned that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's talks in Cairo have dealt with the restoration of Libyan-Egyptian relations. At the conclusion of his visit to Cairo, Shaykh Zayid is expected to announce a positive improvement in relations between these two countries. Some observers affirm that Shaykh Zayid is trying to arrange a very high-level meeting between Cairo and Tripoli.

Egypt To Mediate in Southern Sudan Conflict

PM211553 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
16 Mar 88 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Invites Garang to Dialogue in Cairo"]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has decided to reactivate Egyptian mediation to find a settlement to the problem of southern Sudan. This follows his recent trip to Sudan and his meeting with representatives of political parties and forces in the south, who talked to him about the growing economic crisis and the worsening living conditions.

Egypt is currently studying the possibility of holding direct contacts with John Garang, head of the rebels in the south, and investigating whether he could accept an invitation to visit Egypt and to hold talks with some Sudanese officials to secure an agreement, with Egypt providing the necessary guarantees.

The Egyptian side has confirmed that the dialogue must be directly with Garang himself and not with one of his aides—as happened before when a delegation of the "People's Movement for the Liberation of Sudan" came, headed by one of Garang's aides, and the dialogue produced no results.

Arab League 'Committee of Seven' Visits Moscow

For reportage on the visit to Moscow by the Arab League's "Committee of Seven" delegation, comprising Algerian Foreign Minister A.T. Ibrahimi; Syrian Foreign Minister F. al-Shar'; T. Sahbani, secretary of state to the Tunisian foreign minister; F. Qaddumi, leader of the PLO Political Department; and C. Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, and on the talks held there with Eduard Shevardnadze and other officials, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 17 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Members Meeting Continues

Tunisia's Mestiri Arrives

JN212055 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri arrived in Amman this evening to lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the 17th Islamic states foreign ministers conference. He was received at the airport by 'Ali Nashashibi, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry; and the Tunisian ambassador in Amman.

Al-Masri Speaks to Delegates

JN212139 Amman Television Service in English
2000 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said he is confident that Islamic foreign ministers will make every possible effort to sustain the steadfastness of the residents of the occupied Arab territory and will support their uprising against Israeli occupation until victory is achieved. Addressing the inaugural session of the 17th conference of Islamic foreign ministers this evening, Mr al-Masri noted that the conference is being held at a time when the Islamic world is experiencing internal divisions and becoming a target of foreign incursions. The Iraq-Iran war, he said, has entered its 8th year with Muslims killing one another without any objective in sight for one party or the other.

The foreign minister went on to say that the Islamic nation is unanimous on the need to put an end to this fratricide. Furthermore, the entire world, represented by the United Nations, is agreed that this tragic war should be brought to an end through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and other previous resolutions on the war. Mr al-Masri said the conference should explore every possible means leading to the implementation of Resolution 598 according to the sequence of its paragraphs.

On the Afghan problem, the foreign minister said the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan should pave the way for an acceptable settlement. The 17th Islamic foreign ministers' conference, he added, is committed according to resolutions adopted at previous conferences to make every possible effort and use every means at its disposal to ensure the right of the Afghan people to an independent and free homeland. Mr al-Masri urged the conference to pay special attention to problems and issues of concern to the Islamic world such as apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and drought in the African Continent. At the outset of his speech, the foreign minister welcomed the participants in the conference and thanked them for electing him chairman of the 17th conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states.

'Aziz Addresses Meeting

JN221238 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Amman, 22 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has urged the Islamic states to adopt a decisive stand toward Iran's abnormal and aggressive policies. In a speech at the ICO foreign ministers conference today, he said that all the Islamic states bear a great moral responsibility toward the aggressive Iranian policies, and that this does not constitute a bias toward any side. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the speech:

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, it is a source of pleasure that our conference is being held in fraternal Jordan. On behalf of the Iraqi delegation, I am pleased to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for his, and for the Jordanian Government and its fraternal people, for the hospitality accorded to us. I am confident that the distinguished preparations and organization will contribute to the success of the conference and to the achievement of its objectives.

Mr Chairman, brothers, since the end of the fifth ICO conference which was held in fraternal Kuwait at the end of January last year, serious developments have taken place in the Islamic world that affect us and our common objectives. What makes these developments very serious is that those who were behind them and contributed to their continuation are sides who are affiliated to the same world. While Islamic leaders were meeting in Kuwait, a state that is an ICO member, Iran launched a major military campaign against another member state, Iraq. Its aim was to occupy an Iraqi city that played a great role in Arab-Islamic history, Basra. The host state was also exposed to missile attacks and threats. You were all witnesses to the picture that faced us at the summit.

While we are meeting in Amman today, the same thing is taking place. The aggressive war which Iran insists on carrying out against Iraq has continued for 8 years. The Iranian regime continues to mobilize its armies to invade more Iraqi territory. The language of threats is still the language which the Tehran rulers use to deal with their neighbours in the Gulf. ICO Resolution No. 10/5 S/Q S A called for ending the war and achieving peace. It has gone with the wind, because Iran rejected it just as it has rejected all the ICO summits' calls and resolutions beginning with the 1981 Mecca-Al Ta'if summit and until the Kuwait summit.

Mr Chairman, on the other hand, the international community was trying to achieve peace after Iran rejected all the UN Security Council resolutions. The last ones, Resolutions 582 and 588, were issued in 1986. At the Kuwait summit the UN secretary general confirmed the initiative which he announced on 13 January in which he urged the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities to achieve peace. Out of their faith in peace, Iraq and the Arab states encouraged that initiative.

The Arab states also held intensive contacts with the UN Security Council member states with the aim of urging them to assume their responsibilities toward achieving peace between Iraq and Iran in accordance with a just, comprehensive, honorable, and lasting settlement of the conflict. A few months after these fruitful contacts, the will of the international community was embodied in Resolution 598 which was adopted unanimously and with a binding nature on 20 July 1987. In harmony with its basic stand and with the Arab League Council's resolution in April 1987, Iraq welcomed the resolution 2 days after it was issued and stressed its readiness to implement it with good intentions.

Just as the Iranian regime flouted the will of the Muslim world as expressed at the Kuwait summit which called for peace, it also displayed the same behavior toward the peaceful initiative embodied by the Security Council resolution. However, this time it resorted to prevarication and stalling. The methods it invented to express its stand on the resolution are unprecedented in the history of dealing with Security Council resolutions. Security Council Resolution No 598 is clear and unambiguous. The side that accepts the resolution has only to sit at the negotiating table to implement the resolution clause by clause, and in accordance with the clear, logical, and interlinked provisions of the resolution. The first of such provisions is a cease-fire and withdrawal to the internationally recognized border, followed by the exchange of prisoners, then by negotiations for a permanent peace, and so on and so forth until the whole resolution is implemented.

Playing with words, prevaricating, beating around the bush, and using contradictory expressions does not change the situation. Iran has not accepted a political settlement as a means for resolving the dispute. Its rulers are persisting in their military course of aggression and in seeking to impose custodianship over area countries and indeed over the Muslim world. The Iranian regime is prevaricating in declaring its true stand which rejects Resolution 598 because it fully realizes that Resolution 598 is binding and that its clear rejection will result in the immediate imposing of sanctions on Iran. Consequently, the Iranian regime has resorted to this kind of maneuvering in order to gain time to perpetuate its only policy in life, the policy of war and destruction.

If we were to examine the facts objectively and fairly we find that the situation is not confined to the conflict between Iran and Iraq. Iran has threatened and continues to threaten the security and stability of the entire region, and has attacked other Muslim Arab countries in the region. It refuses to submit to international law and to the resolutions of international organizations not only with regard to its conflict with Iraq, but also with regard

to its relations with others. The clearest proof of that is its rejection of Security Council Resolution 552 of 1984 which dealt with the repeated Iranian aggression against Arab shipping in the Gulf. Most of the ICO Muslim member states have suffered and continue to suffer from the Iranian policy of interfering in their internal affairs and in the instigating of sedition, in addition to media and political campaigns.

Iran's hostile behavior toward Iraq is part of a whole behavior that stems from an imperial and expansionist policy of aggression that has caused Iranian aggression against Iraq ever since 1980. It is also the reason for Iran's insistence on continuing the war to this date and its refusal to submit to the will of the international community in achieving peace. During past years while carrying out its aggression against Iraq and the Arab countries, Iran has allowed all that is forbidden by the Islamic world. It not only permitted murder and destruction, but also dealings with the enemies of Arabs and Muslims for the sake of achieving its expansionist objectives. The nauseating scandals about the Iranian regime's dealings with Israel and Zionist circles confirm this fact. Israel and Zionist circles have been and are still the main source of arms supplied to Iran in its war against Iraq and in threatening the security of the region.

The deliberate disturbances perpetrated by the Iranian regime's collaborators in holy Mecca during last year's pilgrimage are further flagrant proof of the aggressive line pursued by that perverse regime and its readiness to commit any crime for the sake of achieving its political objectives. The Iraqi Government strongly condemns Iran's subversive activities during the pilgrimage and supports the peaceful measures adopted by the government of fraternal Saudi Arabia in this respect.

These branding and documented facts about the behavior of the Iranian regime place a major responsibility on the ICO. Relations between the member states of the organization cannot proceed normally and the organization will not be able to achieve its objectives as long as that perverse aggressive regime continues to pursue these policies. Your firm stand against these policies cannot be construed as favoring one side against another. It is a moral responsibility which you must assume with courage and selflessness if you want relations within this organization to proceed normally and if you want the Islamic world to play the positive constructive role defined by its charter.

Mr Chairman, Iraq has borne the heaviest brunt of the Iranian aggression and has paid a heavy price through the blood of its sons in confronting this expansionist aggressive policy. As for Iraq, I say it is capable of remaining steadfast and repelling the aggression. The experiences of the past 8 years confirm this ability. Let the Tehran rulers know that their dreams and aspirations to occupy and dominate Iraq and resurrect their Persian empire are no more than dreams and impossibly silly illusions. Their stubbornness will only cause them more losses and destruction. Iraq will only accept just comprehensive peace based on the rules of international law. It will only accept the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 in accordance with the sequence of its operative clauses. This is our firm principled stand. It is a stand that believes in peace, but that is also the stand of a brave strong people who are strongly determined to preserve their independence and dignity and deter the aggressors and teach them the lessons they deserve for their insistence on aggression and tyranny.

Mr Chairman, the Palestine question continues to be foremost among the issues that are of concern to Iraq regardless of the number of problems and threats from other sources. Our belief in the Palestine cause is profound and we express this belief through tangible and consistent action. Just as the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque was the event that prompted the establishment of this organization, the critical circumstances which the Palestine question is experiencing now make it incumbent upon us more than at any time in the past to approach the question seriously and embody declared stands and slogans through tangible action.

Above all we must express admiration for and pride in the Palestinian Arab people's valiant and all-out popular uprising in the occupied territory. The uprising is acquiring an important historic character. It is taking place 20 years after the 1967 aggression and the subsequent policies of terrorism and the annexation of territory. It is a courageous and decisive historic response to the occupation and the occupiers. It is magnificent and manifest proof of the vitality of the Palestinian Arab people, their deep faith in freedom, and their basic desire for self-determination. It is the duty of all of us to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people in their popular uprising which compelled the entire world to pay attention to their rights. Our support will prompt the international community to draw the correct conclusions regarding the uprising's heroic stands.

There is no doubt that the most important lessons of the uprising are the futility of the illusions afflicting the powers that deny the rights of peoples and believe that repression, terrorism, and deception can change the course of history. The policies of aggression, force, occupation, repression, and persecution based on myths and dreams of building empires are no longer able to confront the insistence of persecuted peoples on their rights, and cannot change the course of history.

The Palestinian Arab people's uprising that crowns the struggle of many years must lead to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace. It must also ultimately achieve the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian Arab people who have held on to these aspirations throughout the years of their struggle under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. Foremost among our duties is

to strongly support these hopes and to support the PLO in whatever options it decides on and in whatever demands it defines. The entire Muslim world must back this cause.

Mr Chairman, the sinister ties that exist between the two aggressor regimes in Tel Aviv and Tehran have been exposed—in addition to being embodied in the field of armament—in another field that represents yet another facet of the plotting against the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian people in particular. Events have recently revealed the magnitude of Zionist emigration from Iran to occupied Palestine, and have revealed the increase in the number of emigrants passing through Austria and through some Muslim states that are ICO members.

Mr Chairman, you must be aware of the seriousness of this Jewish emigration for the Palestinian cause and for the Palestinian people's situation and rights in the occupied territory. It constitutes a basic pillar of Zionist policy to usurp what land the Palestinians have. It also exposes the falsehood of the Iranian regime's claims of struggling against Zionism at a time when it is colluding with the Zionists to achieve common objectives against the Arab nation. This conspiracy constitutes a flagrant violation of the organization and its principles. Its serious dimensions have urged the Iraqi delegation to request listing the issue of the Iranian Jews' immigration to Palestine on the agenda of this meeting in order to take the appropriate necessary measures.

I must also stress another issue that Iraq has continued to follow up in international forums, namely Israeli nuclear armament, and the need to investigate all data on this issue and to urge the international community to force Israel to respond to UN Security Council Resolution 487, which was issued in July 1981 following the Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations—a resolution that requested Israel to place all its nuclear installations under international control.

Mr Chairman, Lebanon is the other Arab country which has been suffering for years from the Zionist aggression and foreign interference in its affairs. The territory of that peaceful Arab country has become a fertile ground for the Iranian gangs, agents, and terrorists who carry out acts of terrorism and kidnappings to serve Tehran's rulers' objectives and interests and to blackmail world states at the expense of Lebanon's security and stability and the reputation of its sons. It is high time that the ICO calls on those who play havoc in Lebanon to take their hands off this fraternal country and to give its people the freedom to settle their problems and to determine their future.

Mr Chairman, Iraq believes that struggle against aggression, foreign control, and against racism and racial discrimination is the same struggle that necessitates solidarity among all peoples subjected to them. The Islamic states' security is linked to these peoples' security. The struggle against policies of aggression and racist hegemony is a collective one, whether they appear inside or outside the Islamic world. From this premise, the ICO should support the peoples of Namibia and South Africa in their struggle for liberation. In addition to the dangers threatening it as a result of racism and foreign intervention and hegemony, the African Continent is facing the dangers of economic deterioration in general.

In its capacity as chairman of the committee for solidarity with the peoples of the African Sahel, Iraq would like to draw your attention in particular to the tragic situation of the Sahel countries as a result of drought, desertification, and seasonal locust swarms. The problems faced by these countries need practical and effective measures to help their governments and ease the suffering of their peoples.

Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, Iraqi vice president and head of the committee for solidarity with the Sahel countries, addressed an appeal to their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses kings and presidents of the ICO member states calling on them to extend aid and backing to the peoples of the drought-plagued countries. We hope from the bottom of our hearts, Mr Chairman, that the member states will respond to this human appeal during our current meeting with the spirit of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity.

Qaddumi, Mestiri Addresses

JN221746 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Amman, 22 Mar (PETRA)—The 17th Islamic foreign ministers conference resumed its meetings at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman this morning under the chairmanship of Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. The conference is being held under the slogan of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people in Palestine and the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Addressing the conference, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, hailed the Jordanian King, Government, and people for hosting the conference. He also hailed the valiant Palestinian people who recorded the legend of defiance and steadfastness against Israeli occupation. He congratulated Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri on his election as chairman of the conference and said: It is no coincidence that the conference is held under the slogan of the session of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people's blessed uprising—an uprising which was a natural response to a historic event recorded by the Palestinian people against occupation.

He added that 23 years of injustice, tyranny, detention, displacement, and repression were aimed at quelling the national Palestinian identity. This effort was represented by seizing well over 57 percent of the West Bank and 10 percent of the Gaza Strip and by setting up hundreds of

settlements with the aim of annexing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. However, he added, it failed to force the Palestinian people to accept the fait accompli.

He indicated that the stone-throwing children acted to prove that the Palestinian people can confront the enemies, thus overstepping the 1967 Green Line. They met with their brothers in the Galilee to say in one slogan, we are the people of Palestine. With this uprising the Zionist slogans, such as unified Jerusalem and the wailing wall, have fallen. He indicated that the uprising, now in its 4th month, is escalating although Israel is doing its best to stop it and prevent the world from knowing what is going on by not allowing the news media to cover the uprising. He also pointed out what Israel and its friends are doing to silence the Palestinian people and prevent them from demanding their rights, and highlighted the ugly Israeli image exposed to the West following the uprising.

He also referred to the U.S. decision to close the PLO office, a decision opposed by 145 states, and praised the ICO's efforts to realize the Palestinian people's aspirations. Qaddumi stressed the need to end the Iraq-Iran war, resolve the Afghan and Cypriot issues, and grant the peoples of South Africa and Namibia their rights. He also pinpointed the economic and political problems facing Third World nations.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri also delivered a speech in which he expressed his gratitude and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people for their hospitality and warm reception as well as their sincere efforts to facilitate the conference work and provide an appropriate atmosphere for it. He also congratulated Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri on his election as chairman of the conference and commended his efficiency and wisdom in achieving the results and hopes the Islamic nation is pinning on this conference.

He praised the valuable efforts of the ICO secretary general and the Secretariat to carry out the mission entrusted to them. He stressed that Tunisia's president, government, and people are eager to support the ICO and promote its role. He said: We derive this eagerness from the new era as emphasized by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in his first statement which expressed Tunisia's adherence to its Islamic character and its promotion of Islamic solidarity.

He added: We in this conference find ourselves face to face with a new turning point caused by the children's stones and marked by the blood of unarmed martyrs, thus proving to the entire world that no power on earth, regardless of its strength and tyranny, can subjugate them. He said that the blessed uprising in the occupied territories exposed the real nature of the Israeli occupation. He called for solidarity with the Paleatinian Arab people in their just struggle and for taking a supportive stand that rises to the level of this blessed uprising. He also called for the adoption of a clear plan to back these people and support their struggle.

He hoped that the conference will devote its efforts to the Iraq-Iran war tragedy. He added that this war has become a greater challenge and more tragic and wondered how it is possible to face it without being able to reach a solution that spares bloodshed. He added that Tunisia is today calling as it has done since its independence for a pan-Arab action to end this tragedy, and called on the ICO to resume its efforts and find a solution to end this war. He expressed his appreciation for sisterly Iraq's agreement to implement Resolution 598 which reflects the international will.

He called on the organization to bolster cooperation among its members, particularly in the field of information and cultural exchange, for the sake of radiating an Islamic culture and maintaining the rights of Muslim minorities. He said: We seek to reconcile disputing parties, promote cooperation among ourselves, and protect the rights of our brothers in religion wherever they may be.

Concluding, he condemned racial discrimination in South Africa and called for solidarity with the African nations that seek to rid themselves of colonialism. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Meets Ministers

JN221730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, in Amman today. Al-Shar', who is attending the 17th conference of the ICO states, also met with 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, PDRY minister of foreign affairs; and Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan foreign liaison office; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Tashkiri, assistant to the Iranian minister of Islamic guidance and head of the Iranian delegation to the conference.

During the meetings, talks dealt with the topics on the conference's agenda, foremost of which is the brave popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and its important results both in the Arab and international arenas. The talks also centered on relations between Syria and these countries.

Al-Masri Details Activities

JN221800 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1611 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Amman—Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister, chairman of the 17th Islamic foreign ministers conference, and official spokesman for the conference, has stated that work at the conference is proceeding smoothly. At a news conference this afternoon, Al-Masri said that a formulation committee was formed which will combine

the draft resolutions submitted by the various countries, including Jordan, on the agenda items dealing with the Palestinian cause, such as the item on the uprising and the item on the Palestinian cause and the Middle East. He added that this committee will end its work this evening and will refer the draft resolutions to the political committee and later to the ministers.

Al-Masri added that the deliberations within the political committee that is entrusted with the discussion of many current fateful issues are taking place in a smooth manner and in a positive spirit. The minister denied any intention to dispatch a delegation to Iran. He said: If a mediation is to take place with Iran, it must be devoted to convincing Iran to accept UN Security Council Resolution No 598. He pointed out that previous mediations had revolved around the issue of ending the war. He said: However, Resolution 598 has outlined how the war should be ended.

Al-Masri explained that Jordan had issued a statement welcoming the Soviet forces withdrawal from Afghanistan. He said: We in Jordan want the parties concerned in the Afghan issue to expedite the solution to this problem and Jordan has no formula for such a solution. The minister said that His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Pakistan, which his majesty began today, is preplanned and that the Afghan issue will be among the topics his majesty will discuss with his excellency the Pakistani president. In this respect, Al-Masri said that the Pakistani delegation to the conference submitted a draft resolution on the Afghan issue.

Al-Masri said that Turkey submitted a draft resolution for ending regional conflicts in the Islamic world. This draft resolution stipulates the selection of three neutral Islamic figures for this purpose, and that the ICO secretary general has been empowered to choose these figures. Minister al-Masri said that Jordan had proposed listing the Mecca incidents during the past pilgrimage season as an item on the agenda of the conference, and that the Jordanian delegation had prepared a draft resolution on this issue. He said he expects that this draft resolution will be approved by all the delegations, with the exception of the Iranian delegation. He said that all the speeches today by the heads of the Islamic delegations expressed their regret over these incidents, something which substantiates our above expectation.

At the onset of his news conference Minister Al-Masri read the text of the resolution the conference issued on Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising. The minister then replied to questions posed by the media on the statement and the support that the Islamic countries should provide to the Palestinian Arab people's uprising. He said that the Islamic countries' role is very important at this stage to support the just Palestinian cause, garner international support for it, expose Israel and its arbitrary measures, broaden the gap between Israel and its supporters, and highlight the meanings of the popular uprising to international public opinion and fora.

'Text' of 'Uprising' Statement

JN230903 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Mar 88 pp 1, 5

["Text" of statement on the Palestinian uprising issued by the ICO foreign ministers during the 17th ICO foreign ministers meeting in Amman]

[Text] The 17th Islamic conference of foreign ministers held in Amman, the land of steadfastness and the threshold of the holy land that Allah has sanctified, hails the uprising of our Palestinian brothers in the occupied territory of Palestine, and expresses its total support for our solidarity with them in their courageous confrontation with the policies of the oppressive Israeli occupation forces, as it expresses the pride of all Muslims throughout the world in this courageous uprising, and prays for the souls of its gallant martyrs who have sacrificed themselves and let their pure blood be shed in defence of their homeland.

"The heroic uprising, which is gaining in momentum, maturity, strength and scope every day, has belied Israeli allegations, created a new situation and exposes to the world the true nature of the Israel, with its fascist practices and its aggressive, expansionist goals, based on the evacuation and expulsion of the population, the torturing and jailing of citizens in addition to the destruction of houses, the confiscation of land and property, the setting up of colonialist settlements on confiscated land, and the continued aggression against the sacred Mosque of Al-'Aqsa and all the Muslim and Christian holy shrines in the holy land of Palestine.

"The uprising brought about new evidence that unmasked Israel's real face which it hid behind false pretences of democracy. This led the majority of states the world over, as well as regional and international organisations, in addition to various media throughout the world to condemn the Israeli repressive practices against unarmed civilians. It further convinced the international community and world public opinion of the justice of the Palestinian cause and the paramount importance of putting an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories, foremost among which is the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif.

"It also emphasised the urgency of reaching a peaceful, just, permament and comprehensive settlement to the conflict, in such manner as would ensure the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their homeland and to self-determination. Israel has to fully assimilate the lessons of history in the face of the new events and developments which have disproved the validity of the theory of secure borders which Israel has adopted as justification for perpetuating

its occupation and annexation of territories, thus violating the Charter of the United Nations, and U.N. Security Council resolutions as well as the principles of international law and the 1949 general convention on the protection of civilians in times of war.

"The 17th Islamic conference of foreign ministers of the OIC, while strongly condemning the campaign of repression, intimidation and murder launched by the Israeli forces against our Palestinian brothers, in the occupied Palestinian territories, in their desperate bid to crush their national uprising and stop them from claiming their national rights, appeals to all international and regional organisations and bodies to side with legtitimacy and justice, in such manner as would put an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine, and ensure the liberation of Al-Quds and the blessed mosque of Al-Aqsa, and establish as well a just and comprehenisve peace in the Middle East.

"The member states of the OIC reaffirm their determination to provide material, political and moral support to their brothers in the occupied Palestinian territories and to the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, to enable them to confront the occupation authorities and pursue their glorious uprising, inspired by what Allah (exalted be His name) has ordained: "Among the believers are those who have fulfilled their pledges to Allah, and some have died and others are awaiting their hour, and neither could have changed their lot." [Koranic verse]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Qaddumi Says 'New Resolutions' Needed

JN230830 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Mar 88 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Tuesday that there was a need for "new" and "more advanced" international resolutions that could deal "adequately" with the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. "The Palestinian uprising has made cracks and loopholes in the existing international resolutions which have so far been referred to as the basis for peace plans or even an international peace conference," PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi said. "(These resolutions) have become inadequate and insufficient to serve as a basis for solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Qaddumi told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview.

He did not specify any pertinent resolution but said the international community "will sooner or later have to formulate new resolutions which respond to the new facts created by the uprising." Qaddumi's statements reflected to a great extent a very strong argument that has emerged within the PLO since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza last December, according to seasoned analysts. According to this argument, endorsed by many Palestinian thinkers and officials, the uprising has underscored and emphasised the right of the Palestinian people to self- determination as "the essential element" in any formula to solve the Palestinian question.

During the Arab-Soviet dialogue held here last week, Dr. Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, chairman of the PLO's Higher Education Council, clearly voiced this argument in a presentation to the dialogue, calling for a return to U.N. Security Council Resolution 181, known as the Palestine Partition Plan of 1947, as a basis of an international peace conference on the Middle East conflict.

Qaddumi did not refer to the partition plan Tuesday but stressed that the international community "will eventually admit the failure of all resolutions formulated so far to achieve just, comprehensive and durable peace." Reiterating the PLO's support for convening an international peace conference, Qaddumi said that the "conference will have to respond to the new facts and givens created by the uprising." Although the uprising was initiated in occupied territories, the support it gained from Israeli Arabs and the revolt's expression of demands for self-determination have strengthened the line of Palestinian thinking which rejects any consideration of any solution for the West Bank and Gaza as an issue separate from a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects.

"...The struggle of Arab people in the occupied territories will continue and will push the situation in the area to a point where it will be impossible to go back to the conditions which prevailed before the uprising," Qaddumi said. "...Thus the new situation created by the uprising will confront the world with one choice, that is to recognise the inalienable legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to self-determination and to stop supporting the racial Israeli entity and its aggressive and expansionist policies."

In Qaddumi's view, self-determination for the Palestinians is "identical to and cannot mean anything but the establishment of an independent Palestinian state." According to other officials, one of the PLO's main objectives at this stage is formulating Arab and international resolutions calling for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. But it seems, judging by Qaddumi's statement, that securing Arab and international support for an independent Palestinian representation has become equal to or a prerequisite for achieving international recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

"The PLO has to have an independent and separate representation in the international conference and on equal footing with all the parties involved," Qaddumi said. "In our view, the realisation of our independent representation is inseparable from the realisation of our

inalienable rights." In reply to a question about the relationship between the PLO and the Unified Command of the Uprising, Qaddumi said it would be "an oversimplification to say that there is complete coordination between the two."

"It is more complex and deeper than that," Qaddumi said. "But what I can say is that the commmand is mainly the party which decides the daily tactics in the popular struggle against the Israeli occupation; but it leaves the general political line and strategy to the PLO leadership." But he added that a shift from unarmed resistance, except for stone-throwings, to an allout armed struggle would require a decision from the PLO leadership since this would "constitute a strategic resolution." He emphasised that the PLO leadership takes into consideration the political demands and outlook of the command.

Qaddumi spoke with pride about the new Palestinian generation in the occupied land and the leadership of the uprising. He said Western observers who visited the occupied territories and later met with the PLO leadership were deeply impressed "by the high and sophisticated level of organisation of the command and its cells." Qaddumi reiterated the PLO's rejection of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' peace plan describing it "as an attempt to quell the uprising." He expressed distrust in the American administration's readiness to find a comprehensive and just settlement to the Palestinian question. "This administration is incapable of doing anything. It is just deceiving world opinion," he said. "They are closing our offices and pretending they are seeking peace...they are using their veto against the PLO and saying they want peace... I think they are liars," he said. "Shultz can go to hell," he declared.

PLO 'Determined' To Maintain New York UN Mission
PM221615 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
19 Mar 88 pp 18, 19

[Unattributed interview with Zuhdi Labib al-Tarazi, head of the PLO mission to the United Nations, in Tunis; date not specified]

[Text] Following the U.S. announcement of its decision to close the PLO mission in New York, AL-TADAMUN met with mission head and PLO observer at the United Nations Zuhdi Labib al-Tarazi, who was in Tunis to hold consultations with the Palestinian leadership. The following interview began with a question concerning the background to the U.S. decision, and his reply was:

U.S. President Reagan has put his seal to a law deeming the PLO a terrorist organization, consequently forbidding any action, participation, or cooperation with it; also preventing the PLO from undertaking any activities. This measure means that the Americans disbar the Palestinian people, as well as the American people, from performing any action that may be construed as support for the PLO or what the PLO seeks to do in this regard. Since this organization is the spokesman on behalf of the Palestinian people and the mouthpiece of their aspirations and aims, this law forbids any appeal for the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's rights—which is not at all surprising coming from the Reagan administration, because the U.S. policy in recent years has aimed at eliminating the Palestinian card.

It has become clear to the United States that the Palestinian card is the PLO, which is officially and internationally recognized as the Palestinian people's representative and spokesman. Therefore this law carries dangers: first, it prevents publicization of the Palestine issue in the U.S. arena; and second, the U.S. attorney general states that the enforcement of this law requires the closure of PLO offices. Since the PLO's sole office is the permanent mission to the United Nations, the U.S. attorney general explains that the law can be interpreted as ending the existence of the PLO mission to the United Nations in New York.

Al-Tarazi continued: The UN General Assembly, by a majority of 145 votes, has confirmed that the PLO mission is protected by the U.S.-UN headquarters agreement, so that any action against the PLO is considered a violation of an international agreement to which the United States is a signatory. There now remains only one way for the United States, and for President Reagan, to exercise his powers and responsibilities as head of state and announce that this law is not at odds with U.S. commitments within the framework of international law. Therefore this law should not apply to the mission. However, it is clear that President Reagan will not take this step, so the PLO must call for implementation of the agreement. There is an unambiguous clause which says that, in such circumstances, a dispute can be referred to an arbitration court comprising one U.S.-appointed member, a second member appointed by the UN secretary general, and a third arbitrator agreed to by both sides. If they do not succeed, the head of the International Court of Justice appoints him.

[AL-TADAMUN] If this formula fails, what will the PLO do?

[Al-Tarazi] In that event we will go to the International Court of Justice to ask for its verdict on the situation in terms of the agreement, whereby the United States is violating it and not abiding by its international commitments. Then the International Court will confirm the General Assembly's view that the headquarters agreement protects the PLO mission in New York. There are difficulties, of course, but we are ready to confront them, because the PLO is determined to remain in New York, at the UN headquarters, exercising a right that we will not forfeit.

[AL-TADAMUN] Will the PLO resort to the first method, in other words, arbitration?

[Al-Tarazi] The one asking for arbitration is the General Assembly. We are seeking to restart the General Assembly sittings, so that the General Assembly can urge the secretary general to resort to arbitration. If the host state—in other words, the United States—does not agree to that, then we will go to the International Court of Justice at the General Asssembly's request.

[AL-TADAMUN] What must the Arab states do to back the PLO in this battle?

[Al-Tarazi] The Arab states must first and foremost defend the headquarters agreement and its sanctity and second they must side with the PLO and not search for a way out for the United States. It is anticipated that the number of "ways out" will grow, except that the only true way out for the United States is to respect the headquarters state agreement.

[AL-TADAMUN] Such a process will take a long time, aside from the difficulties you referred to. So what will the PLO mission do in the coming phase?

[Al-Tarazi] In every law and in every system there is a safety clause to stay implementation. Even in the International Court of Justice there is a clause stipulating that the situation should continue as it is until the court decides and the final decision is reached. Therefore, we will resort to this situation until the dispute is resolved.

[AL-TADAMUN] Will the Arab organizations in the United States be used to exert pressure for the U.S. decision to be revoked?

[Al-Tarazi] First, they need to defend themselves and their existence, but nevertheless they can approach the State Department and urge that the law be abrogated.

Monte Carlo Notes Issuance of Statement No 11

JN220650 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] With the escalation of Israeli repression, particularly following the death of an Israeli soldier in Bethlehem on Sunday 20 March, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising issued a new statement, its 11th since the beginning of the uprising. It calls on the citizens in the occupied territory to continue to escalate the struggle against Israeli occupation. The statement calls for demonstrations against and attacks on the Israeli army and settlers on 22 and 23 March and protests against Israel in Palestinian educational institutions on 24 March. The statement calls for a general strike on 28 March. The statement also calls on the agents of the Israeli authorities to publicly ask the Palestinian people for pardon on 29 March.

The statement urges municipality counsellors to resign their posts by 29 March and calls on citizens to form organized popular committees in cities and villages whose task will be to store food supplies, cultivate the land, and determine citizens' blood groups.

The former mayor of Hebron, Mustafa al-Natshah, said yesterday that the death of the Israeli soldier on 20 March is an isolated incident and that those who are carrying out the uprising have no intention whatsoever of using arms. He said: Our people are defeating one of the strongest armies in the area with stones. He declared: The only way to achieve peace is for Israel to begin talks with Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Quds Radio: Baytuniya Council Resigns

JN221637 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1557 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we just received the following: In response to the uprising call, the head and members of the Baytuniya Municipal Council have tendered their resignation to the Ramallah administrative governor.

Za'tarah Rural Council Resigns

JN222006 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] In response to the call by the popular committees of the uprising, the Za'tarah Rural Council tendered its resignation today. The rural councils of Al-Khidr and Bayt Fajjar tendered their resignations earlier this month.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Proximity Talks on Afghan Issue Continue

BK221612 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] The proximity talks on Afghanistan continued in Geneva today and lasted for nearly 90 minutes. Later, Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani told newsmen we are waiting for the Soviet Government's reply on the doubts we expressed, because only the Soviet Government can dispell them. He said that we are trying to avoid bloodshed in Afghanistan. The UN representative, Diego Cordovez, refused to answer the questions of newsmen, saying only that progress in this regard has been very slow.

The Pakistani delegation sources say that apart from Geneva, detailed talks are also under way in Moscow and Washington on simultaneously ending military aid to the Kabul regime and the Afghan mujahidin. According to a report, the attention is now focused on the talks being held between Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz.

Radio Pakistan's special representative, Safdar Ahad, in a dispatch from Geneva said that efforts are being made now to settle other issues which include the establishment of a transitional government, an end to the fighting, and the details of a phased Soviet troops withdrawal within 6 months after the first 3 month's period. The UN assistance [as heard] group will need these details to supervise the implementation of the settlement. According to a report, Pakistan has stressed at the proximity talks that it is of special significance for the mujahidin and Pakistan to maintain symmetry and (?balance) in the responsibilities of the guarantor countries. Pakistan understands that in the absence of this, a peaceful situation will not be created in Afghanistan and Afghan refugees will not be able to return to their homes.

'Unilateral' Withdrawal Cited

BK211558 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] The indirect proximity talks on Afghanistan resumed in Geneva today after the weekly holidays. Speaking to awaiting newsmen, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, said that the pace of talks last week was dull and there was normal progress. So far as we are concerned, as soon as the drafts are completed and our fears satisfactorily removed, we will sign the agreement. He said the date 15 March has elapsed and the Soviet Union has made a new announcement that it will unilaterally pull out its troops [from Afghanistan]. The minister of state said as the date 15 March has already expired, the date 30 March is also not very significant. In a dispatch from Geneva, Radio Pakistan's special representative, Safdar, has reported that today's talks lasted more than 90 minutes and and they will resume tomorrow.

Noorani Interviewed on Talks

AU221938 Paris AFP in English 1919 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Yvan Chemla report]

[Excerpt] Geneva, March 22 (AFP)—Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani said Tuesday that the Soviet Union was "sincere" about withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan but that the Kabul government was blocking a settlement. In an interview here with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr. Noorani said he believed Moscow was "sincere in wanting to withdraw" from Afghanistan. But the Afghan Government seemed to be creating difficulties "to prepare the ground to create an artificial breakdown" of the Geneva peace talks, he added.

Mr. Noorani heads Pakistan's delegation at indirect talks with Afghanistan, which reopened here under United Nations auspices on March 2. "We must all appreciate that the success of the Geneva negotiation will be welcomed by everyone, except by the Kabul regime," he said. He accused Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil of raising false problems. At a recent press conference, Mr. Wakil had charged Pakistan with raising the issue of the Durand Line (the border between the two countries). "This is totally untrue," Mr. Noorani said.

Two real problems stood in the way of agreement in Geneva, he added. The first was the simultaneous ending of direct Soviet and U.S. support for the Kabul government and for the Afghan rebels respectively, he indicated. "We would have preferred this question to be solved here in Geneva," Mr. Noorani said. "But the sensitivity of the superpowers, with whom we have to deal, made us agree to have it discussed and settled either here or in Washington," he added. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was in Washington Tuesday for talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, which were expected to cover developments in Afghanistan.

The second difficulty cited by Mr. Noorani was the formation of an interim government in Kabul. Mr. Noorani said he was waiting for "a signal from Moscow" on this point, "because our concerns, particularly on the transitional government, can best be solved by Moscow."

"The Kabul regime has itself accepted—and the world knows it—that it controls less than 20 per cent of the territory of Afghanistan," the minister said. "It can neither speak for the entire Afghan nation nor can it even dream of fulfilling the obligations that would be required under the Geneva agreement," he added. "A change of government in Kabul is also essential because one must keep in mind that the regime has been responsible for the sacrifice of over 1.2 million Afghan lives," Mr. Noorani went on.

Alongside the Geneva talks, there should be "proximity talks between all the factions of the Afghan people," Mr. Noorani said. "Neither the Soviet Union, nor Pakistan, nor any other country would be asked to attend" these talks, he added. Asked about the possible withdrawal of Soviet troops in the absence of an international agreement, Mr. Noorani said that "may be good for Soviet public relations." But, he added, "it (would) certainly mean that after eight and a half years of devastation, the Afghan people would be subjected to horror and misery."

There are some three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, where mujahidin Afghan rebels also have bases. "Fighting will increase and there will be further sacrifices," Mr. Noorani said. [passage omitted]

Correction to Wakil News Conference 16 Mar

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "'Abdul Wakil Holds News Conference in Geneva," published in the 18 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 11, column 1:

From paragraph nine, end of only sentence should read: ...answer your questions.

CBS correspondent: For how much longer are you prepared to continue the present round of talks?

Answer: For as long as Mr Cordovez tells me. The Pakistanis have been waiting for instructions from their capital since 3 March. I do not know, perhaps their communications are out of order or something. It is better to ask them this question—how much more time they need to receive instructions.

BBC correspondent: You have spoken about the undesirable consequences of the failure of the Geneva talks. Can you explain these consequences?

Answer: You may know that Pakistan has been waging war against Afghanistan for over 9 years. This has caused heavy human and material losses to our country. If Pakistan thinks that it can continue the war for another 9 years, naturally the flames of war will recognize no boundary. The fire from the home of one neighbor will spread to the house of its other neighbor. It is obvious that recent events in Pakistan, for instance in Karachi and in other cities—explosions, conflicts between armed groups, and the smuggling of weapons—are clear testimony to this reality. The continuation of war not only endangers the security of Pakistan but the security of the region too. (providing inadvertently omitted passage).

Egypt

Badr Denies SFRY Visit, Discusses Extradition

JN221628 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
21 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Interior Minister Zaki Badr has denied reports that he recently visited the SFRY and held talks with SFRY officials on Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's position in the Egypt's Revolution case. Badr added that the public prosecution is now compiling a comprehensive file on Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's position in case, and that Egypt will contact the SFRY to have Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir returned if the public prosecution issues a warrant for his arrest. Zaki Badr said there is no extradition agreement between Egypt and the SFRY, but Egypt will discuss how to arrest Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir through Interpol.

Zaki Badr Comments on 'Extremists,' Drugs

JN210913 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
18 Mar 88 p 17

[Samir 'Abd al-Majid dispatch]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-MUSAWWAR, Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr has affirmed that security authorities entered Asyut University at the request of its president. The university president, he added, requested help when the situation was exacerbated by the storming of the university by a group of extremists, who attacked students participating in a musical show inside the university. The state prosecution ordered that the 68 extremists who were arrested be kept in custody to stand trial.

On the Bani Suwayf incidents, Badr said that some extremists from Islamic groups stormed a mosque and attempted to attack worshippers. This required police intervention. In the city of Al-Minya, some extremists attacked a residential area during the hours of darkness. They were all arrested for questioning and will stand trial.

Zaki Badr said: With regard to drug trafficking, arrest and confiscation measures have been taken against 95 drug traffickers between 1981 and the beginning of this year. A total of 45 million pounds of drug traffickers' money was placed under control or confiscated. These arrests were carried out to prevent the circulation of drugs and to protect young people from the poisons marketed by those dealers.

Al-Baz Cited on Uprising, Peace Proposals

NC221145 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT
22 Mar 88

[Text] Tunis, 22 Mar (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stressed that relations between Egypt and Tunisia will witness a positive development in the near future. In an interview with the Tunisian paper AL-SABAH, he said that Egypt sees Tunisia as one of the principal parties in the establishment of a stable system in the Arab Maghreb region. Such a system should be based on cooperation, solidarity among the states of the region, the elimination of differences and points of tension, and non-involvement in blocs and polarization of forces, he said.

Dr al-Baz stressed that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories will bear fruit now and in the future. He noted that the U.S. action is a positive phenomenon. In the past, the United States considered the Palestinian issue to be quiescent, but is now convinced that it has become an urgent issue. It has also accepted the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East and to respect the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He said that Egypt has reservations about the U.S. proposals but believes that action and progress in the U.S. stand must be maintained. He added: We have told Washington that we cannot negotiate on the basis of the twisted Israeli concept which rejects withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

He said: It should be clear that we are negotiating on the following basis: If Israel wants peace, then it must abandon its occupation of the Arab territories and its attempt to control the Palestinian people's fate and challenge their rights.

Foreign Ministry Protests Shamir Statements

NC201319 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry today summoned the Israeli ambassador in Cairo and protested to him over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements made during a news conference in Washington on 16 March. The Foreign Ministry expressed its strong denunciation and rejection of the falsehoods and distortions of facts which those statements contained. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry remarked that it would have been more appropriate for the Israeli prime minister's statements to be in line with the Egyptian efforts to attain a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, and for his stands to be in keeping with the current efforts to revive the peace process in the Middle East.

Israel Lodges Protest Over Negev Incident

PM211533 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
16 Mar 88 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Israeli Protest, Egyptian Denial"]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government has submitted a memorandum to the Egyptian Government containing a strongly-worded protest, asking for an explanation of the incident in which three Palestinian fedayeen infiltrated into the Negev region and seized a bus near the nuclear

reactor at Dimona. Israel has linked the incident to the Egyptian maneuvers which took place last week in Sinai, in the course of which the Egyptian forces came up to the passes region.

An Egyptian official commented on the memorandum, saying that Israel has the right to level any accusations it likes against anyone. However, Egypt did not plan the operation, and the issue is is no way open to denial or confirmation by Egypt. He also added that Egypt's response to Israel is that no power or state in the world can control border infiltration incidents.

Furthermore, AL-MAJALLAH has learned that a telephone conversation took place between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Egypt's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, in which they discussed the details of the incident. Moreover, the Israeli Embassy in Cairo lodged an official protest with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry against Egypt's broadcasting of a radio series on an historical leader known for his hostility to the Jews.

In its protest the Israeli Embassy mentioned that it is noticeable how the Egyptian media have recently started to take an interest in a number of historical figures well-known for their hostility to the Jews. It also mentioned that Israeli media officials are "stepping in," in view of the standing relations with Egypt, to prevent the broadcasting of similar programs on historical figures known for their hostility to Egyptians. [passage omitted]

AIDS Test Required for All Israeli Tourists

PM211611 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
15 Mar 88 p 1

[Unattributed Report: "Israelis To Be Tested for Fear They Might Be Carrying AIDS"]

[Text] The Health Ministry has decided to subject all Israeli tourists to medical examinations and rigorous laboratory tests before allowing them into Egypt. This is in view of the increase in the number of Israelis infected with AIDS. The Health Ministry has rejected a request from the Israeli Embassy asking for this to be confined to suspected cases, and for medical certificates held by Israelis to show that they are not infected with the disease, for fear that such certificates could be forged. The Arab Conference on AIDS, held recently in Cairo, revealed that Israel and some African states near Egypt are considered to be among the main sources of AIDS.

Mubarak Receives Message From GDR's Honecker

NC221059 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT
22 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received today a message from GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker. The message was delivered by GDR Ambassador to Cairo Wolfgang Schuessler during a meeting with the president.

U.S. 'Interference' Threatens Water Sources

PM211653 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
15 Mar 88 p 1

[Salah Budaywi Report: "Former Irrigation Minister Warns: U.S. Interference In Nile Sources Threatens Egypt's Rights To Waters"]

[Text] Former Irrigation Minister Eng Ibrahim Zaki Qinawi has warned against U.S. interference in the Nile sources states with a view to affecting Egypt's quota of water. He said that a few years ago the United States conducted a number of studies at the Nile sources. It has also offered to help Ethiopia to intervene and set up 17 dams on the Blue Nile to hold water back—which would mean denying Egypt its rights to Nile waters in the future, as well as preventing water from reaching it; also, bear in mind that Ethiopia still refuses to join the irrigation agreements regulating the setting up of dams within the Nile basin states. Eng Zaki Qinawi has urged the government to draw up a comprehensive strategy to confront such threats and protect Egypt's rights.

Furthermore, Ibrahim Zaki Qinawi has stressed that the High Dam turbines will stop functioning once the level of water stored behind the dam drops 9 meters below the current level (156.5 meters). This was revealed at a seminar organized for this purpose by the Center for Research Economic and Fiscal Studies of the Economics and Political Sciences Faculty. Eng Qinawi criticized the government's laxity in confronting the drought threat. He said that the government must draw up urgent plans immediately to confront the continuing drought threat.

Housing Minister Leaves on East Bloc Tour

NC220705 Cairo MENA in English 0700 GMT
22 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 22 (MENA)—Minister of Housing and New Communities Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, left early this morning for Budapest on the first leg of a ten-day tour that includes Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. In Hungary, Al-Kafrawi will study means of profiting from the advanced Hungarian know-how in linking new communities to large cities. Al-Kafrawi told MENA before leaving that he will discuss with Czech officials the feasibility of increasing Czechoslovakia's cast iron exports to Egypt, as it is now exporting to Egypt about 400,000 tons of cast iron annually. He said he will also discuss with Czech officials the renovation and development of major water stations in Egypt.

Concluding, Al-Kafrawi said he will inaugurate during his visit to Moscow a fair on March 30 exhibiting some of the products of the Tenth of Ramadan plants. This will be the first fair to exhibit the Tenth of Ramadan city's products abroad, he added.

Soviet Delegation Arrives for Writers Seminar

NC212258 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—A Soviet delegation led by Kamil Guzmadov, CSPU Central Committee member and chairman of the USSR Union of Writers [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of several days. The Soviet delegation will attend the expanded seminar, which will be held by the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity, on current issues and writers, between 23 and 25 March. A group of senior Third World and Arab writers, as well as Egyptian writers, will take part in the seminar.

Sudan

Al-Mirghani Invited To Meet Garang in Tripoli

JN231049 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 23 (SUNA)—Informed Libyan sources have confirmed that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi once again invited head of State Supreme Council Ahmad Al-Mirghani to meet the rebellion leader in Tripoli early next April the daily AL-USBU' said today. The newspapers quoted Libyan sources as saying Libya is capable to overcome the southern Sudan problem if some conditions are existing but it did not disclose the kind of the condition. On the other hand the sources of AL-USBU' said that the visit of Al-Mirghani to Libya had "attained a great step toward the reconcilation between Egypt and Libya particularly after Egyptian president Husni Mubarak accepted the Arab mediation to return back four Libyan planes landed recently in Cairo. [no closing quote as received]

SPLA Force Inflicts 'Very Heavy Casualties'

EA221544 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Erglish 1300 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpts] An SPLA force of Eagle Battalion under direct command of Captain (Luka Dut Yeil) and overall command of Alternate Commander (Peter Wala Atiue) intercepted a huge enemy force at Majok Aken near Rumakeir on 4 March 1988 and inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy. Well over 52 enemy troops were killed, including the deputy commander of the militia, who was identified as a citizen from (Tibole) village near Babanusah, and many others were seriously injured, including the militia commander known as Hamad Idris. [passage omitted]

Twenty-seven militiamen of Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi have been killed, among them three officers, two captains, and one first lieutenant, and many others were injured in a clash with the SPLA forces of (Bunyah) battalion under the overall command of Commander Daniel Aweit Akuot, on 12 March 1988 at (Kirkawo). Correspondent for the Radio SPLA in Abyei area says that the Al-Sadiq militia had come to the area to cause insecurity, killing innocent defenseless citizens, as well as kidnapping women and children and looting property. According to our correspondent in the area, the Al-Sadiq militia were carrying red flags, a symbol of Islamic Jihad, and others were carrying the Sudanese flag. [passage omitted]

Earlier, units of Nile Battalion under the command of Captain Dominic Deng Deng and overall command of Alternate Commander Chuol Ayuwak clashed with the enemy troops combined with the militia along (Kirkow) river on the 21st of last month. Correspondent says that 32 enemy soldiers were killed and several others sustained injuries. The commander of the militia, Major Ramadan Ali Jumah, was among those who were killed, and his body was taken to Abyei for burial.

It is worth mentioning that Major Ramadan Ali Jumah was a former commander of Abyei garrison. He refused transfer to the north amid reports of atrocities committed by him against the civilian population in December last year. He resigned his post in the Army and became the militia commander recognized by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. His main job in the area was to loot peoples cattle and abduct people's children and wives, who are now being sold as slaves in western Sudan. The correspondent says that the SPLA forces have now cleared the areas of Awan, Akur, and (Juwele) and are now closing in on the Al-Sadiq's main militia base at (Kirkow). [passage omitted]

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iranians Attack Japanese-Chartered Tanker

OW220024 Tokyo KYODO in English 0001 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Iranian speedboats attacked a Japanese-chartered, Liberian-registered tanker in the southern Persian Gulf on Monday, but there were no casualties among the tanker crew, according to reports reaching here. The 61,762-ton tanker "Fumi," chartered by Nakata Gumi of Onomichi, Hiroshima Prefecture, was attacked while cruising about 18 kilometers off the United Arab Emirates, the reports said. The Iranian attack set the tanker's engine room ablaze but tugs doused the fire about two hours later, the reports said.

Sadao Nakata, president of the Japanese firm, said he had received reports on the attack on the tanker and he understood no one was hurt. The news of the incident came amid reports that Iraqi jets killed some 50 seamen on two Iranian supertankers in an attack on Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal on Saturday. The Iranian supertankers were reportedly the 316,739-ton "Avaj" and the 253,837-ton "Sanandaj." Reports reaching here said the death toll, if confirmed, would make the attack the worst on merchant shipping since attacks on tankers became a feature of the Gulf war in 1984. The war between Iran and Iraq started in September 1980.

Norwegian Tanker Attacked

JN220916 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Dubayy—According to shipping sources in the area, Iranian gunboats attacked in two stages at dawn today the Norwegian natural gas tanker ("Hukumit") 12 nautical miles west of Dubayy. The attack resulted in the death of no less than 2 of the ship's crew and the wounding of 10 others.

Kuwait

Delegation Leaves for ICO Conference in Amman

LD211313 Kuwait KUNA in English 0958 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 21 (KUNA)—Kuwait is optimistic of the fruitful outcome of the 5-day conference of the Islamic states foreign ministers opening in Amman, Jordan, Monday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi said. Speaking to KUNA today shortly before departure to the Jordanian capital at the head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Al-'Usaymi said he was optimistic of the ability of the representatives of the 46 member-states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to reach decisions upholding the higher interests of the Islamic nation. The 17th conference of the OIC foreign ministers will be opened by King Husayn of Jordan later today.

Al-'Usaymi said he was hopeful of the conferencess concern with promoting their deliberations to the level of the developments engulfing the Islamic nation. The 17th conference is of special importance in view of the developments in the Islamic world headed by the Iraq-Iran war, the uprising of the Palestinians against the Zionist occupation, Afghanistan and other regional issues confronting the Islamic nation, he said. The uprising of the Palestinians and the war between the two Muslim neighbours of Iraq and Iran are two pressing issues commanding concerted Islamic action, the Kuwaiti minister said.

The Kuwaiti minister welcomed Iran's participation in the Amman conference this time calling on all delegations to join hands in reaching a formula tackling the intricate problems of the Islamic world. Al-'Usaymi said the Islamic delegation will engage in intensive consultations on adoption of a united stand and if any workpaper is presented, the ministers will certainly look to the higher interest "because what concerns us is solution of the major problems facing the Islamic world." The conference will discuss the Security Council Resolution 598 demanding a ceasefire in the war between Iraq and Iran which enjoys the support of all regional, Islamic and international forums.

Al-'Usaymi is accompanied by a delegation including head of the administrative affairs department at the Foreign Ministry Abdul-Aziz al-Shariqah, acting head of the international organisations department Dirar Razzougi, head of the Islamic Solidarity Fund Yousef al-Awadhi, and 'Abdallah al-Sanusi from the protocol department [names and titles as received].

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and Jordan's ambassador to Kuwait Nabil al-Talhuni and senior Foreign Ministry officials saw the minister off at the airport.

GCC 'Controls' Put on Dialogue With Iran

LD222040 Kuwait KUNA in English 1710 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, March 22 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti acting premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah announced Tuesday that the Gulf Cooperation Council states "have put controls for dialogue with neighboring Iran." A main principle of the dialogue, he said, is a demand that Iran should stop meddling in the domestic affairs of GCC countries and pledge not to take hostile actions against them. "If such conditions are met then everyone will be able to resolve problems through diplomatic channels," Shaykh Sabah added during an audience with the newly-elected board of Kuwait Journalists Association.

Asserting that Kuwait is not in a state of war with Iran, the top Kuwaiti official expressed hopes that the two neighboring Moslem states would have strong future relations. He indicated that the Foreign Ministry has

designated two of its diplomats to work at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran as soon as the current war of cities between Iran and Iraq stops. Shaykh Sabah described relations between Kuwait and Iran "as good" and said exchange of visits between officials of the two countries "is possible."

Shaykh Sabah affirmed that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, whose country enjoys strong ties with Iran, is exerting efforts with Tehran, in the name of GCC states, to improve ties between the two sides.

Shaykh Sabah said a forthcoming meeting in Kuwait of the Organization of Islamic Conference Secretariat (OIC) headed by organization chairman, H.H. the amir of Kuwait would examine progress towards executing resolutions of the fifth OIC summit held in Kuwait January last year. He added that the two-day meeting, opening on April 10, would bring together King Hassan II of Morocco in his capacity as chairman of the OIC's Jerusalem Committee, the presidents of Maldives and Gabon, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Omar Bongo, and the PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat. All three are vice-chairmen of the Jerusalem Committee.

Other participants are the presidents of Senegal, Pakistan and Turkey, respectively Abdou Diouf, Mohammed Ziaul Haq and Kenan Evren.

In his wide-ranging remarks, the top Kuwaiti diplomat also tackled the situation in Afghanistan and expressed hopes that Soviet troops would pull out from Afghanistan as soon as possible, so as Kabul returns to its OIC seat and the Nonaligned Movement. He expressed hopes that the visit of Jordanian monarch King Husayn to Islamabad and talks with top officials there would contribute to an early settlement of the Afghan issue. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives U.S. Envoy Philip Habib

LD221213 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon at Al-Yamamah Palace received U.S. envoy Philip Habib and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education; 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, Foreign Ministry undersecretary for political affairs; and Hume Horan, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

The U.S. envoy arrived in Riyadh yesterday and was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Tawfiq 'Almador, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

King Fahd Comments on Arab, Islamic Issues

PM210951 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 18 Mar 88 pp 20-23

[Interview with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, "custodian of the two holy mosques," by Milhim Karam in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] Karam: Does the Kingdom's budget necessitate foreign debts?

King Fahd: When drawing up the annual budget, the specialized circles in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia base their estimates of the state revenues on a number of assumptions in light of future expectations. Internal borrowing may be one option, but the budget meets all society's needs, particularly in the development sector.

Karam: Why did you impose and then lift individual income tax and how successful will your recent direct and indirect taxation measures be in boosting the economy?

King Fahd: The development plans in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aim mainly at achieving comprehensive development in the interest, above all, of the people's prosperity. That means that we do not hesitate, in the interests of the public and the inhabitants alike, to abolish any imposed levies if we find that we can do without them. We thank God that the honorable citizens are fully aware of this fact because it is part of their lives. That is why we see them doing their best to support the state's efforts in turning the wheels of the economy for the best possible results.

Karam: Are you considering inviting Arab or Islamic forces after the departure of the Pakistani forces?

King Fahd: There are no non-Saudi forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As regards seeking the assistance of fraternal or friendly states, that comes under exchange of expertise in accordance with the requirements of our plans for the development of the various sectors of the Armed Forces.

Karam: Are you still preparing to purchase minesweepers and submarines and from what states?

King Fahd: As far as our country is concerned, acquiring arms is not an aim in itself. That is why what is imported to meet pressing needs is based on thorough study before

any particular weapon is sought. Furthermore, the choice of source is an integral part of such a study which is guided by quality, type, and other quite important considerations.

Karam: Do you support the formation of a joint Arab regional naval force to ease the repercussions of the Iraq-Iran war?

King Fahd: Regional cooperation within the GCC framework is proceeding with confident and constructive steps at all levels. That naturally includes the defense aspect, where some considerable progress has been made. Officials are continuing their efforts to further develop the various sectors and render them more effective as a contribution to the complementary preparations in the interest of the region's security and safety, as an Arab and Islamic shield.

Karam: In what circumstances would you reopen the Kingdom's embassy in Tehran?

King Fahd: As you know, diplomatic relations still exist between the Kingdom and Iran, which means that the Saudi Embassy in Tehran still exists and plays its role.

Karam: As GCC chairman, how satisfied are you with the results of Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's mediation with Iran?

King Fahd: My brother the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, is making steady efforts, for which he is to be thanked, in this respect and we hope they produce positive results. We wish every success to all other sincere efforts made toward that good end.

Karam: You have sent a message to Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, delivered in Moscow by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Are you contemplating the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviets? King Fahd: The exchange of messages between officials of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union is part of our cordial and warm consultations with friendly states for which we harbor every appreciation and respect. As regards relations, the stress at present is on the economic aspect, which is more important.

Karam: Jordan and Morocco have each offered to send forces to the Arab Gulf states if requested. Would you prefer such forces to Egyptian forces?

King Fahd: All the Arab states you mentioned are equally dear to our hearts and we appreciate the sentiments they have expressed for us. That is not strange for a family joined by love and loyalty.

Karam: Do you prefer Egyptian military experts to experts from Western states and why?

King Fahd: The question of benefiting from experts is not a matter of whim or emotion. It is governed by several factors, the most important of which are probably scarcity, quality, and the degree of need. The priorities as to the sources of the expertise come after that.

Karam: How can the uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip be developed and how can its results be saved from liquidation?

King Fahd: The uprising is not only in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is happening all over Palestine, generated by intrinsic power as a natural result of the feelings of anger, pain, and despair. That is the secret of its growth, which continuously weakens the intransigent position of a usurping enemy with no other way of sparing itself the world's wrath and resentment than to leave the territory for its legitimate owners to set up an independent Palestinian state there.

Karam: The process of development in the Kingdom has come a long way—as reflected in the numerous economic, constructional, cultural, and political landmarks. What are the Kingdom's ambitions at various levels as it enters 1988?

King Fahd: In domestic terms our ambition is to complete implementation of our projects approved under the current year's budget, especially in relation to the expansion of the two holy mosques in holy Mecca and Medina. At the foreign level, we hope that all sincere efforts can be joined together to bring about an end to the war between the two Islamic neighbors, Iraq and Iran, that a Palestinian state can be established, that peace will prevail in Lebanon and Afghanistan, and that economic balance can be achieved to the benefit of the international community.

Karam: In your view, which of the two causes should be given priority: the Gulf war, with its possible development and dramatic ramifications, or the Palestinian cause with all the international media and political coverage the uprising has given it, largely overshadowing the Gulf war events?

King Fahd: Both are equally important and both are two deep wounds in the bodies of the Arab and Islamic nations. That is why all sincere efforts should be devoted to promoting a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian question and an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Karam: In your view, what is the degree of change in the Soviet position on the proposals made for the settlement of the Afghan question and do you believe that the Gorbachev leadership is serious about ending its participation in the Afghan-Afghan war?

King Fahd: Any observer of the Geneva direct negotiations on withdrawal from Afghanistan can discern more than one indication that the Soviet Union is, inevitably,

determined to get out of this dilemma. That, of course, is the logic of reason and wisdom. The results of continued involvement are known and history is full of examples for anyone interested.

Karam: We know that Your Majesty was the real architect of the oil policy adopted by OPEC last year, which succeeded in raising the official oil price to 18 dollars a barrel. Now, with oil prices again on the slide, some Western media are claiming it is difficult to stabilize oil prices without a Saudi-Iranian bilateral understanding. Your Majesty, in your opinion, what is the essential factor for restoring oil price stability?

King Fahd: As you know, oil prices are determined on the basis of what OPEC decides. As for bilateral understandings, they are often reached with states outside the organization and for the purpose of coordination, particularly since there are some undisciplined states and that makes it necessary to enlighten them on the grave consequences and negative effects which are most harmful to the future of the oil industry.

Karam: Your good offices in mediating between Algeria and Morocco resulted in a reconciliation and a truce between these two countries. Today we notice that there are exchanges of verbal criticism between the two countries. Are you preparing for an initiative that would restore amity between the Arab Maghreb capitals?

King Fahd: Algerian-Moroccan relations are at present more reassuring than ever before. What you have mentioned is something which takes time to be overcome. My honorable brothers the leaders of the greater Arab Maghreb states are fully aware of the importance of dialogue and of continuing along the path of integration they have long aspired to. We bless every constructive effort in this connection.

Karam: What preparations and arrangements has the Kingdom made for the current pilgrimage season?

King Fahd: God has honored this country with the task of looking after the two holy mosques and of receiving the pilgrims coming to the holy places. This is one responsibility which the Kingdom shoulders at the highest level. That is why it carefully looks after the pilgrims who come to the holy places for pilgrimage humbly seeking God's blessing and will not permit any actions that violate the sanctity and tranquillity of pilgrimage or the smooth performance of the rites by all pilgrims. This is a final and decisive position and we have taken precautions for all eventualities. We will not allow any harmful exploitation of the pilgrimage season.

Karam: What is the nature of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to the Saudi Kingdom and how does Your Majesty assess its results?

King Fahd: It falls within the context of Arab fraternity and solidarity. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia always opens its arms and heart to brothers, especially as we are bound to Tunisia by historical ties which we have always sought to strengthen in the interests of both peoples. We see President Zine El Abidine's visit as a new dawn and a great hope for a further strengthening of our existing relations. During the visit we sensed his great interest in serving the Tunisian people and fulfilling their aspirations, which has reassured us that the results will be equal to the aspirations. On the Arab level, during our meetings with him the Tunisian president gave fresh evidence of his sincerity and genuine hopes and endeavors for the unity of Arab ranks and the prosperity and glory of the Tunisians and the Arabs.

Karam: Your aid and care for Lebanon have been commended by everyone, but, Your Majesty, Lebanon has been suffering for such a long time. Do you see any near hope or light at the end of tunnel for that afflicted homeland?

King Fahd: Lebanon is a dear and loved brother and we are pained by its hemorrhage and by the continuation of the present situation there. All efforts are being made to aid and help it out of its predicament. Saudi Arabia has never failed nor will it ever fail to do everything asked of it or take any initiative that would promote a solution to end this long suffering and hardship. We seize every opportunity to speed up the restoration of Lebanon's health so it may again play its constructive role. Lebanon is a unique and illuminating cultural and humitarian beacon. The Lebanese people are distinguished, vastly active and productive, highly educated, conscious, and ambitious without abandoning their faith and beliefs. Saudi Arabia supports all efforts made to speed up Lebanon's recovery and consolidate its national unity and domestic front.

Claim of Missile Nuclear Ability 'Unfounded'

JN222204 Al-Damman AL-YAWM in Arabic
21 Mar 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The Kingdom and the Diversification of the Sources of Weapons"]

[Text] It is no secret that the Kingdom has strongly and capably managed to build its Armed Forces through intensive training of national military cadres and through generous spending on military requirements such as equipment and weapons. It is also no secret that the Kingdom, in its endeavors to protect the Muslims' sanctities and the homeland's development gains, is ready to sacrifice everything to build a solid military base. The custodian of the two holy mosques, his highness the loyal crown prince, and his highness the second prime minister and defense minister have focused their attention on this.

For this noble goal, the Kingdom has been announcing it would meet its military requirements under prevailing circumstances and from all sources of weapons. The Saudi decision is an independent one and stems from our wise leaders' concern about upgrading our Armed Forces. What is important in the final analysis is our needs and our circumstances.

Hence, the Kingdom's acquisition of the Chinese-made intermediate-range surface-to-surface missile system falls within this framework, which has been defined by Saudi officials on several occasions.

Any talk that these missiles have nuclear capabilities is unfounded. The Kingdom is one of the countries trying to protect the region from the dangers of nuclear weapons. If the Kingdom had another view, it would have disclosed it because it makes its decisions out of conviction and faith.

We affirm there is countless evidence to prove the Kingdom's credibility. However, it is enough to recall that the Kingdom has never issued a statement and then acted against it.

Minister Appointed Presidential Adviser 22 Mar
JN222009 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1823 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Presidential Decree No 262 issued on 22 March]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions contained in paragraphs D and E of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following: Heavy Industries Minister 'Abd al-Tawab 'Abdallah al-Mulla-Huwaysh shall be appointed an adviser in the presidential office. The competent ministers shall put this decree into effect.

Baghdad, 22 March 1988

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Industry Minister Relieved of Post 22 Mar
JN221910 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1825 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Presidential Decree No 263 issued on 22 March]

[Text] In accordance with Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following: Industry Minister Hatim 'Abd al-Rashid shall be relieved of his post. The competent ministers must put this decree into effect.

Baghdad, 22 March 1988

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Acting Replacement Named
JN222017 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Presidential Decree No 264 issued on 22 March]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following: Colonel Husayn Kamil, the official in charge of the Military Industries Organization, shall be appointed as acting industry and minerals minister, besides his other functions. The competent ministers shall put this decree into effect.

Baghdad, 22 March 1988

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Military Industries Organization Established
JN222033 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1914 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA)—A law was issued here today establishing the Military Industries Organization [hay'at al-tasni' al-'askari], affiliated to the RCC. The law states that the organization seeks to provide the Armed Forces with their needs in line with the policy drawn up for military industrialization by the supreme quarters, taking into consideration the fact that military production is its key specialization.

The law indicates that the organization also seeks to promote local capabilities and attain a specialized level that is always capable of meeting the Armed Forces' renewed needs. This is based on self-reliance and utilization of plentiful energies for other economic purposes once the conditions of the success and development of military industry have been realized. The law also indicates that the organization and the organizational units affiliated to it can open branches or offices inside and outside Iraq. The law points out that the supreme chairman of the organization and the one responsible for directing its work and policy and supervising its activities is the director of the Military Industries Organization. He will rank as a minister and all decisions, orders, and instructions regarding all matters related to the tasks of the organization shall be made by him and under his supervision.

Tariq 'Aziz Discusses War, Other Affairs
JN182113 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1733 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Antoine Nawfal in Paris, carried within "It Happened Tomorrow" program—date not given; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Nawfal] Mr Tariq 'Aziz, we would like to take the opportunity of your presence in Paris to ask: What did you do in Paris, and what was the French reply during the talks you held within the Arab delegation?

['Aziz] I came to Paris as a member of the Arab delegation—comprised of a number of Arab foreign ministers and the Arab League secretary general—at the request of the Arab League Council, to obtain further international support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories and for the Palestine question in general. We explained to the French side the Arab stand, as approved during the latest Arab League Council's meeting. I can say that the French, who have shown a good understanding of the Arab stand for several years, have confirmed this understanding and stressed France's readiness to continue its efforts with the aim of reaching a just and balanced peace. I cannot go into detail; we have not dealt with many of the details during the talks. However, along with my colleagues who attended the meeting, I am generally satisfied with the results of our talks here in Paris about this issue.

[Nawfal] We will return to relations with France if you please. Now, when you find yourself side by side with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in one delegation, what does one say to the other?

['Aziz] As you know, we are Arab League member states and Iraq, regardless of the harm to which it is exposed by some of its brothers—the Syrian Government in particular—is a responsible Arab country. It shoulders all of its responsibilities. I came within the Arab League delegation on a mission related to the Palestine question. Therefore, we behave in a way that serves our cause.

[Nawfal] Iraq has previously asked for the suspension of Jordanian mediation between it and Syria. Was this request made because Iraq really lost hope for any positive Syrian attitude toward the Iraq-Iran war?

['Aziz] Yes, you may say that. There was a historic and precious opportunity in Amman when the Arab leaders met and discussed the threats facing pan-Arab security. One of these threats is the 8-year Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Gulf states. This issue is not new after all these years. In Amman, all felt it was time to discuss it deeply. It was actually discussed in a frank and detailed manner. The Syrian side there promised to abide by the general Arab stand, which was expressed at the summit.

However, at the conclusion of the summit and following the Syrian delegation's return to its capital, we discovered that the Syrian Government did not behave according to the atmosphere and resolutions of the summit, nor with the commitments they made at that summit, but rather to the contrary. This brings to mind its previous behavior of alliance with Iran, despite the Arab nation's unanimity that Iran is the aggressor and that the war it is launching against Iraq is a threat to pan-Arab security. What is then the benefit of dialogue and the good efforts being exerted by His Majesty King Husayn or the other Arabs? There seems to be no benefit from this as long as the Syrian regime is not ready to change its stand. When it is ready, there will be a benefit from any effort to straighten things out.

[Nawfal] Is there no ray of hope at present?

['Aziz] This question must be directed to the other side, which should decide where it stands. Does it stand with Arab unanimity and the stand of the Arab nation, or with its allies, who are committing aggression against us? [passage omitted]

[Nawfal] But what are Iraq's conditions today for the resumption of talks on a halt to the war of the cities? There is a prevailing conviction that Iraq has discovered an effective method against Iran and is not prepared to give it up easily. Where do all these missiles come from? This is what is being asked. Is it true that they are Soviet missiles modified in Europe? There are many questions about this subject. At any rate, it seems that Iraq has found a method to force Iran to accept Iraqi conditions. What are these conditions?

['Aziz] May I say that this is an incorrect and inaccurate conclusion. Iraq has never desired a war of the cities. We do not desire the war. We accepted peace, a comprehensive peace, and the one who accepts a comprehensive peace cannot resort to a war of the cities. The one who insists on war is the one who triggers the war of the cities. Iran has been shelling Baghdad with missiles for several months. It has also been shelling Basra with artillery and short-range missiles. It has been shelling Al-'Amarah, Khanaqin, Mandali, Halabjah, and Al-Sulaymaniyah. It has been shelling all the Iraqi towns near the 1,200-km Iraq-Iran border. We endured all that and were patient. However, patience has limits.

Our Armed Forces must reply when the Iranians go too far in their killing of civilians. We taught the Iranians a lesson. On Thursday, 10 March, we thought we taught them the lesson, and that it was enough. Therefore, we issued a statement announcing this. We said we will stop if Iran abides by its principles. These principles are clear, just, and logical. [passage omitted] The missiles Iran is using are indiscriminate and hit targets haphazardly. By its missiles it killed Iraqi citizens—children, women, and elderly—and demolished houses. Therefore, we had to strike and teach them a lesson. They always confuse things. The Iranian policy is based on shuffling cards and attempting to raise doubts about basic facts. This is regarding the war of the cities.

Regarding the Iraqi missiles and where they came from: They came from Iraq and they are 100 percent Iraqi. All the statements and reports in Iran or other capitals and newspapers in this regard are nonsense. They do not want to admit that Iraq can manufacture such a weapon. They should not understimate Iraq's ability. Iraq is a serious country. The people in Iraq work day and night to protect their country. We are facing a fateful challenge, and every Iraqi citizen is confronting this challenge with a strong will. The scientist or engineer is confronting this challenge with all his ability. We succeeded in manufacturing a deterrent weapon. It was the Iranians who obtained their missiles by illegal and unethical methods from other sources and used them against our capital. Therefore, the Iraqis had to protect their capital and cities by manufacturing their own missile to strike at the aggressors' capital.

[Nawfal] When you say that the Iranian missile is indiscriminate, does the Iraqi missile hit specific targets in the cities it is launched against?

['Aziz] I am not an expert. However, I say that surface-to-surface missiles are generally not very accurate. This is a fact acknowledged by those who are informed on military matters. This missile is 100 percent Iraqi. I tell you a fact: Nobody gives such weapons with such a range.

[Nawfal] You have told us about the five principles land down by Iraq. These principles achieved a 2-day truce. The war of the cities then resumed. Do you think that the resumption of the war of the cities will activate international concern toward a solution, or at least toward imposing sanctions on Iran?

['Aziz] I tell you clearly and frankly that whether this will activate the international situation or not we will respond to the Iranians. This is because the protection of our citizens, although I am a foreign minister and my mission is diplomatic, is more important than diplomacy. We wished to halt the war of the cities, and we did so. What happened is that the Iranians resumed the shelling

of the Iraqi towns last Sunday. They first shelled Halabjah. They killed 13 Iraqi citizens there and injured 79 others, including women and children. Hours later, they shelled a residential complex in Darband Khan. They also killed other citizens.

They violated one of our principles. They wanted to maneuver. They wanted to halt the bombardment of capitals, which draws the interest of world mass media, television, and major politicians. They wanted to continue to kill the Iraqis on the border. We said in our statement that the killing of one Iraqi in Halabjah is the same as killing an Iraqi in Baghdad. For Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership, all Iraqis are equal in worth, whether they live in a village, on the outskirts, or the capital. Therefore, this is an aggression against the Iraqi civilians. Why do we strike at Tehran in return? This is because the evil orders to shell and kill Iraqis are issued from Tehran. The message must be conveyed to it.

If we want to convey a message to the other party, it must go to the center of evil decisionmaking, not to the outskirts. Whether this would activate the international situation or not, this was not our concern. However, if the international community is to be interested, it must be interested in the whole issue, not just part of it. It must be interested in the war and the full implementation of Resolution 598 as approved by the UN Security Council. The international community must move from the current state of indecisiveness to the stage of adopting sanctions against Iran, because it has refused to submit to this resolution for 8 months.

[Nawfal] Therefore, there is an attempt to turn the Iraqi military action into a political one?

['Aziz] We did not make this attempt. The Security Council...

[Nawfal, interrupting] How can all this military superiority be translated politically?

['Aziz] I said we did not have any political plan in this issue. All we wanted is to deter those attacking our cities. If this is achieved in itself, it would be considered a gain. This is because this means we would have protected Basra, Halabjah, Khanaqin, and all cities, in addition to Baghdad and the Iraqi cities deep inside Iraq. This in itself is an achievement. This is the leadership's duty. If this will lead to postive political results, we welcome them. I have no objection to that. However, I tell you that nobody in the Iraqi leadership intended to draw up a political plan out of this operation.

[Nawfal] The impression you are giving us is only that the war will continue.

['Aziz] Yes. This is because Iran insists on the continuation of the war. As long as it insists on the continuation of the war, you have to deal with the stages of the continuation of the war. This is one of the stages of the war. We are called upon to deal with these stages. As for talking about settlement, yes, we are are working for that. We work through our efforts at the Security Council. As you know, we accepted Resolution 598 and are ready to implement it.

[Nawfal] Some other Arabs are also working on the political issue. The GCC ministerial meeting was briefed yesterday on the results of the contacts Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal held in Washington and Moscow at the beginning of this year. It was also briefed on the results of the UAE contacts with Iran on behalf of the GCC states. Is Iraq satisfied with the Arabian Gulf states' stand, and does it encourage such contacts?

['Aziz] We do not differentiate between one side and another. The contacts Brother Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal held in Moscow and Washington, and the other Saudi delegates' visits to the capitals of the other UN Security Council permanent members, focused on the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Gulf states, and on the responsibilities these states should assume toward confronting the aggression, as well as the serious implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. This, of course, is a positive and constructive effort which we encourage and appreciate. Regarding contacts between a GCC state and Iran, I know nothing about their results, and consequently I cannot judge them. However, let us speak in general. What does Iran want from its contacts with the Gulf states, and what do the Gulf states want from their contacts with Iran? There are conflicting wills here; the Gulf states want to hold a dialogue with Iran, and maybe they held several dialogues with Iran in the past to achieve peace. However, Iran wants to hold dialogue with the Gulf states to isolate them from Iraq and to make them stand idle...

[Nawfal, interrupting] As a price for peace?

['Aziz] No, not a price for peace, but to stand idle until we [Iran] end our mission of occupying Iraq. However, the Gulf states are not stupid. They know that if Iran succeeds in its evil plan, then they are directly targeted after this. Therefore, it is difficult to combine two conflicting objectives. Dialogue is useful whenever there is common ground between the parties to the dialogue. I personally believe that there is no common ground between the parties to the dialogue. The dialgoue could lead to results if it were held between two sides having common ground. However, when common ground is lost, and I believe it is absent between Iran and the Gulf states, the results will be as you have described them, in accordance with the reports you have heard in this regard.

[Nawfal] Mr Tariq 'Aziz, one who follows development might have the feeling that the United States and the West are Iraq's allies and that the USSR is Iran's ally. This way of simplifying matters might not reflect the real situation. What is the true situation of Iraqi relations with the United States and the USSR, first with the United States?

['Aziz] Exactly, as you said, this is a way of simplifying matters and does not apply to the true situation. The West is neither an ally of Iraq or of the Arabs. Iraq is also not an ally of the West. To be fair, I should also say that the USSR is not an ally of Iran. The USSR is an ally of Bulgaria and the CSSR, but not an ally of Iran. There are specifications for alliance that are no present between us and the Western states, or between the USSR and Iran. There are stanbds currently adopted by the Western states that we consider good and responsible. I do not want to discuss the reasons deeply. However, it is clear to everyone that the Western states have interests, as they said, regarding the Iranian threats to Iraq and the Gulf states.

You know and the world knows that Iran aimed at and threatened interests that are far from Iraq. This made the Western states pay attention to this danger. To be fair, we must say that France in particular adopted such stands a long time ago, and then the United States followed France's example. During some periods, the United States was indifferent to what was taking place in the region. Then Britain followed suit. The USSR advocated an end to the war for several years, and it is still calling for an end to the war. However, the USSR has not so far supported the resolution imposing an embargo on arms sales to Iran for certain calculations—calculations regarding its being a neighbor of Iran and other calculations related to what the USSR wants to achieve in this or that region. At any rate, this stand does not rise to the level of alliance. We exploit all positive stands. As Arabs, we should act without complexes. We must feel mature. We have become mature, and we no longer fear to deal with the United States, the USSR, France, Britain, or any other state.

Where do our legitimate interests lie? The Arab interests, including Iraq's interests, are legitimate. We want peace. If the United States supports this, then we welcome its stand. If the PRC supports this, then we welcome its stand. We can deal with all sides, regardless of their conflicting interests and strategies. I can describe our present relations with the United States as normal. We have diplomatic representation. We exchange views with them. There is a good degree of constructive bilateral exchange of opinions. Trade relations are developing. This is the true situation of our relations.

[Nawfal] Regarding the USSR, the recent draft resolution which is presented to stop the cities war was not completely in favor of implementing Resolution 598, while Iraq insists on its implementation in accordance with the sequence of its clauses. It seems that Moscow attempts to evade imposing an embargo on arms sales to Iran. How do you interpret this stand?

['Aziz] Yes, I agree with you in describing the Soviet stand and this draft resolution. We told the Soviets that this is an unacceptable stand. This is an attempt to divide the issue. Yes, they are still evading an agreement to impose an embargo on arms sales. This is a correct description of the stand. We must say this, and we have told the USSR that it should assume its full responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The USSR helped formulate and create Resolution 598. Resolution 598 is not an end, but an introduction that has results. These results are represented either by implementing the resolution or by imposing sanctions on the side that rejects its implementation. Thus, it should assume its responsibilities and make matters reach their natural conclusion. The USSR has heard this from us and from other Arab states.

[Nawfal] What about Iraq's relations with France, particularly under the circumstances of elections?

['Aziz] Good and normal. We have established very good relations with France based on understanding and constructive dealing with various governments in France. We have dealt with three French presidents, Pompidou, Giscard d'Estaing, and Mitterrand. We have dealt with several prime ministers, foreign ministers, finance ministers, defense, and other ministers. A few days ago, the Iraqi oil minister was on a visit to Paris at the head of the Iraqi delegation to the joint committee. The talks were positive and achieved practical results. Today, I held political talks with my colleague Jean-Bernard Raimond. These talks were also successful and reflected the natural....

[Nawfal, interrupting] Other than the talks within the Arab delegation?

['Aziz] Yes, I held a special meeting with my colleague. These talks reflected the nature of the good relations between Iraq and France.

[Nawfal] Will relations continue as they are, regardless of who the next president is?

['Aziz] Yes, I believe so, in accordance with past experience. What is being said here, in France, is that one of three will be France's next president, but all three are our friends. [passage omitted]

United Nations Informed of Iranian Shelling

JN212054 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] United Nations, 21 Mar (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations of the details of the Iranian regime's firing of 300 artillery shells on residential areas in Iraq on 16 and 17 March. 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent UN representative, handed a message on the shelling to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. It was also distributed among the UN Secretary Council members today. In the message, Iraq affirmed that the Iranian regime shelled residential areas of cities in the governorates of Al-Basrah, Maysan, Wasit, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, Al-Ta'mim, and Diyala. The message said a number of civilians were martyred or wounded and that civilian property and schools sustained great damage.

Missile Attacks Also Cited

JN222029 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] The United Nations, 22 Mar (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations of the details pertaining to the expansionist Iranian regime's firing of four surface-to-surface missiles on the cities of Baghdad, Mosul, and Kirkuk on 17 and 18 March. 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, handed a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar; it was also distributed to the UN Security Council members today. In the letter Iraq reiterated that the aggressive Iranian attacks martyred and wounded a number of civilians, including women and children, and caused extensive damage to civilian vehicles and property.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Liberian Tanker Hit by Iran

JN201606 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] London, 20 Mar (INA)—The British insurance company Lloyds has announced that a Liberian oil tanker was attacked by Iranian gunboats while sailing outside the Al-Shariqah port in the UAE this morning. Lloyds also said that the 43,393-tonne tanker "Atlantic Base" was built in 1983 and is operated by the Island Navigation Company [name as received], headquartered in Hong Kong. Lloyds did not refer to the losses sustained by the tanker or the fate of its crewmen. The tanker was hit by missiles launched from Iranian gunboats. After a short while, its crewmen managed to control a small fire that broke out in the fuel tank.

Communique No 3,089

JN201808 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,089 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through the men who believe in God and His victory for our lofty Iraq, the people's Armed Forces continued to carry out their heroic activities last night and today as follows:

1. No matter how the superstitious Iranian rulers try to conceal the truth regarding what has befallen them and the Iranian people, who have been afflicted with their rule, what they seek to achieve will be no more than an illusion, quick to fade and be eradicated by Iraq's strikes and its certain victory, whose shining light can never be concealed by the wornout veils of the charlatans. Once again, these miserable renegades sought to try their bad luck. Hence, they pushed one force of their herds, supported by tanks, artillery, and mortars, at midnight last night to attack the positions of our units affiliated with the valiant Muslim ibn 'Aqil Forces in the heroic II Army Corps central sector.

Our courageous infantry men of the Muslim ibn 'Aqil Forces, splendidly supported by the men of the armor and artillery, were lying in wait for them to inflict Iraq's wrath and hot fires. They managed to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. The confirmed losses were 1,200 personnel killed, a large number of personnel wounded, and dozens of others captured. The only scoundrels that survived are those who were captured or fled the scene, totally defeated. Blessed be the real men of the Muslim ibn 'Aqil Forces as well as all men of the valiant II Army Corps, the corps that claims heroic feats—commanders, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to the Lord for the victory that He granted us. He is the best giver.

2. The planes of our heroic Air Force flew 82 combat missions to attack the enemy units in the operational sectors, inflicting on the aggressors heavy losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. Our brave planes also carried out the following heroic missions:

a. At 1900 [1600] yesterday, a destructive strike was dealt to the city of Borujerd.

b. At the same time, other planes were dealing a destructive strike to the city of Qazvin in northernmost Iran.

c. At 2248 last night, our planes raided the city of Arak to pound selected targets there.

d. At 0815 this morning, our planes dealt a destructive strike to the city of Dezful.

e. At 0820 this morning, our planes raided the city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran], obliterating their targets.

f. At 1345 today, our planes dealt another destructive strike at the city of Borujerd.

Having carried out all their duties, all of our planes returned safely and victorious to base, in God's care.

3. The genuine knights of the helicopter gunships flew 50 combat missions today, inflicting more losses on the enemy's personnel, weapons, equipment, and vehicles. Then they returned safely to base. God be praised.

4. Our units killed 58 scoundrels and destroyed 6 assorted vehicles, 2 infantry positions, and 3 ammunition dumps in the I Army Corps northern sector.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed and three observation posts, one vehicle, one single-barreled machinegun, and one infantry position were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two guns and two ammunition dumps were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah

7. Five scoundrels were killed and two heavy machine-guns and three infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. One of the enemy personnel was killed, four infantry positions were destroyed, one vehicle was burned, and one ammunition dump was destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

9. At 0030 today, the Zionist Iranian regime fired a missile at one of residential areas in the city of Baghdad, wounding eight civilians and causing damage to civilian property. The criminal enemy also shelled residential areas in the cities of Basra, Maysan, Khanaqin, Badrah, Al-Zubayr, Al-Majjar al-Kabir, Qal'at Dizah, Al-Harithah, and 'Ali al-Gharbi with its long-range artillery last night and today. The enemy shelling martyred or wounded a number of civilians, including women, children, and elders. It also damaged a number of houses, shops, and civilian property. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 March 1988

Plane Downing Denied

JN201912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1858 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman here today denied Iranian claims about downing an Iraqi plane today. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said all our planes returned safely to base after carrying out their duties today. The spokesman challenged the Iranian rulers to give any proof of their allegations.

Shelling of Basra Continues

JN211050 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Basra, 21 Mar (INA)—An INA correspondent in Basra has said that the city residential areas were the target of intensive Iranian long-range artillery and rocket launcher bombardment throughout last night and today. The correspondent noted that the continuous intensive shelling was also aimed against residential areas in Al-Dayr and Al-Zubayr. He said: As a result of the enemy bombardment, a number of women, old men, and children were among the martyrs and wounded. A number of houses, shops, civilian property, and cars were also damaged.

Last night, an Iranian shell ripped apart the bodies of a pregnant woman and her 6-year old daughter as they were leaving their home in Basra. An 8-year old boy was martyred and six other civilians were also wounded in Basra this morning in an enemy shell explosion.

Iran Hits Oil Tanker

JN211140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1054 GMT 21 Mar 88

[All names as received]

[Text] London, 21 Mar (INA)—The Liberian oil tanker "Fumi" was the target of an Iranian gunboat attack this morning while sailing toward the southern Arabian Gulf. The British insurance company, Lloyds, said in London today that the attack caused fire in the engine compartment and oil to leak from its reservoirs, but none of the crew members was wounded. The 36,674-tonne oil tanker was built in 1984 and is owned by the Nakata Navigation Company headquartered in Monrovia. The company is run by the Nakata and Jomi company in Tokyo.

2 Iranian Tankers Hit

JN211417 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] London, 21 Mar (INA)—The British Lloyds insurance company has confirmed that the two Iranian supertankers "Awaj" and "Sanandaj" [names as received] sustained heavy damage when Iraqi planes raided Iran's Khark Island last Saturday. In a cable to the INA office here this afternoon, the British company said the two supertankers, owned by the Tehran-based Iranian Oil Company, are still ablaze. Lloyds pointed out that the supertanker "Awaj" weighs 316,979 tonnes while the supertanker "Sanandaj" weighs 253,837 tonnes.

Communique No 3,090

JN211801 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,090 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the resolve and determination of the faithful, militant men, Iraq's victorious forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our Air Force planes carried out 41 combat missions today, inflicting further losses on the enemy. At 1445 [1145 GMT] today, our planes dealt a devastating blow to the city of Dezful, after which all our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships carried out 30 combat missions today, inflicting on the enemy new losses in personnel, weapons, equipment, and hardware. Afterward, all the helicopter gunships returned safely to base in God's care.

3. Our brave formations in the I Army Corps northern sector dealt violent blows with artillery, tanks, and other weapons to enemy units and vehicles. They inflicted the following losses on the enemy: killing 91 scoundrels and wounding others: destroying 26 various vehicles, including 3 vehicles carrying personnel and 2 vehicles carrying

two 106-mm guns; setting ablaze and destroying 3 tanks and an armored personnel carrier; blowing up 9 ammunition dumps; destroying 12 infantry positions, 1 106-mm gun, 3 machineguns, 1 tubular launcher, and 1 TOW missiles base; and setting ablaze and destroying 5 shovels [preceding word in English].

4. Two enemy personnel were killed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and one infantry position was destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. In the II Army Corps central sector, five various positions, two machineguns, and three observation posts were destroyed, and two scoundrels were killed.

6. Two firing posts were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Five personnel were killed and a raft and a shovel were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. Six enemy soldiers were killed; two infantry positions and one machinegun were destroyed; and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

9. The criminal enemy shelled with long-range artillery residential areas in the cities of Basra and Qal'at Dizah last night. The enemy shelling martyred one child, wounded three civilians, including one woman, and damaged a number of houses in Basra. The shelling also martyred two civilians and wounded three others, including two women, in Qal'at Dizah. Mercy to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 March 1988

35th Missile Strike Launched

JN221536 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 22 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Great Iraq has been fighting the war which was imposed on it for 7 and 1/2 years. Iraq has emerged victorious. It has retained its territory, sovereignty, the dignity of its sons, and the accomplishments of its revolution. Iraq has also preserved its principles. Iraq's sons have continued to fight and build edifices for welfare. Our great Iraq will not be harmed by the attempts made by the losers here and there. The war of the cities which the Iranian regime insists on pursuing will not weaken Iraq's will. Our people are more determined today than ever to defeat the remnants of aggressors on the warfronts and to exterminate all dens of superstition in all Iranian cities and to bolster the peace opportunities.

With God's help, we continued to deal painful blows to the staggering Iranian regime to place it in a painful and unenviable position. With God's help, at 1738 [1438 GMT] today, the 35th missile strike using the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to Tehran. May God bless the proud men of the military industries and of the Al-Husayn missile force. Praised be the Lord for the victory that He granted us.

[Dated] 22 March 1988

Aircraft Raid Iranian Cities

JN221608 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1535 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 22 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. The daring planes of our Air Force continued to penetrate deep inside enemy territory to pound the dens of superstition, thus enabling the deaf to hear the voice of right. They carried out the following heroic missions today:

1. At 0926 [0626 GMT] today, our planes launched a raid against the city of Shushtar, pounding their targets there.

2. At 1005, our planes raided the city of Reza'iyeh. [Orumiyeh]

3. At 1030, our planes carried out a destructive raid against the city of Ilam.

4. At the same time, other planes were pounding their targets in the city of Kuhdasht.

5. At 1030 also, our planes dealt a violent strike to the city of (Salahi).

6. At 1228 today, our planes launched a successful raid against the city of Dezful.

7. At 1600 today, our planes raided the city of Tabriz and destroyed their targets there.

Having carried out all of their tasks, our planes returnd safely to base, praised be God.

[Dated] 22 March 1988

Communique No 3,091

JN221814 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,091 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continue to confront the forces of aggression. They are displaying a high degree of fighting spirit and efficient performance. This

confrontation will continue until the eventual victory is scored over our enemies, with God's help. The following is a roundup of their activities for last night and today:

1. Our daring Air Force planes continued to penetrate deep inside enemy territory to pound the dens of superstition, thus enabling the deaf to hear the voice of right. They carried out the following heroic missions today:

a. At 0926 [0626 GMT] today, our planes launched a raid against the city of Shushtar, pounding their targets there.

b. At 1005, our planes raided the city of Reza'iyeh [Orumiyeh].

c. At 1030, our planes carried out a destructive raid against the city of Ilam.

d. At the same time, other planes were pounding their targets in the city of Kuhdasht.

e. At 1030 also, our planes dealt a violent strike to the city of (Salahi).

f. At 1228 today, our planes launched a successful raid against the city of Dezful.

g. At 1600 today, our planes raided the city of Tabriz and destroyed their targets there.

Our rapacious hawks carried out 276 combat missions deep inside enemy territory and to attack its troops in the operations theaters. Having carried out these missions, all of our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. The valiant knights of the helicopter gunships managed today to fly 83 combat sorties. During these sorties, they inflicted death on many enemy troop concentrations and destruction on its equipment and weapons. Having carried out these missions, the knights returned with their planes safely to base, praised be the Lord.

3. Our courageous formations in the I Army Corps northern sector spotted groups of scoundrels. Then, they directed intensive fire using artillery, mortar guns, and other weapons, killing or wounding 200 enemy personnel. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy in the same sector:

—destroying eight vehicles, including two vehicles carrying personnel.

—burning and destroying two tanks.

—destroying one TOW rocket base and one 106-mm gun.

—burning and destroying three shovels [preceding word in English].

—destroying four infantry positions and three observation posts.

4. Twenty enemy personnel were killed and others were wounded, one vehicle loaded with ammunition was burned, one ammunition dump was blown up, and four observation posts and five infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Four scoundrels were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. Two infantry positions and four enemy personnel were killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The criminal enemy used long-range artillery today to shell residential quarters in the city of Qal'at Dizah. The shelling wounded four citizens, including two children, and damaged three houses. May swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General, 22 March 1988

Spokesman Denies Plane Claim

JN222117 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2109 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about downing an Iraqi plane. In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that all Iraqi planes which carried out their missions deep inside Iran today returned safely to base.

Baghdad Hit by Missile

JN230617 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0526 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 23 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0730 [0430 GMT] today, the tyrant Iranian rulers fired one of their missiles at the city of Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area. It caused damage to civilian citizens and their property.

[Dated] 23 March 1988

Shamir Holds News Conference on Return From U.S.
TA221645 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1517 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Speech delivered by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport on 22 March upon his return from the United States, followed by Shamir's answers to reporters' questions—live]

[Text] [Shamir] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am returning from an 8-day visit to the United States. Those were 8 days of much activity, intensive talks, especially with the U.S. Administration, and numerous meetings with the Jewish public and the media. The first part of the visit, as usual, took place in Washington, and was entirely dedicated to talks with U.S. Administration leaders, the President, the vice president, the secretary of state, the secretaries of defense and the treasury, senators, members of the House of Representatives, and many more personages. The talks I conducted with the President, the secretary of state and their aides, were sincere and detailed. They were conducted in an atmosphere of understanding, friendship, and sincerity. President Reagan and Secretary Shultz repeatedly emphasized that although there are disagreements between us regarding the way to promote peace, particularly the international conference issue, the fabric of friendship, the alliance, and cooperation, with all their attendant aspects, will continue and remain solid and unshakable.

As a result of the talks it is clear to me that the U.S. Administration has no doubt about the strong desire of all Israeli citizens to attain peace, to move rapidly to the beginning of peace negotiations with our neighbors. Still, at the same time, one cannot ignore the true and serious reservations we raised about the proposals submitted to us. These reservations, in our opinion, will not bring peace closer. [sentence as heard] Peace may be harmed if no consideration of these reservations is taken. I believe the leaders of the U.S. Administration well understand, as we do, that any process of promoting peace in the Middle East will be able to succeed only if Israel and the United States march along hand in hand with coordination and full cooperation. Therefore, all attempts from various sides to drive a wedge between us and the United States, the efforts to convince elements in the United States to exert so-called pressure on Israel, all these attempts and efforts have not succeeded. They were rejected by the U.S. Administration, and I think this will be the case in the future.

In talks with the administration we also discussed ways and means of establishing and strengthening the bilateral cooperation between Israel and the United States in the strategic, economic and political spheres. Leaders of the U.S. Administration favor this, and we agreed that these matters will be given real expression in the near future. We spoke at length about the plight of Soviet Jewry, with regard to U.S.-Soviet talks. We discussed various aspects of this problem, our desire to give action on this issue a special direction, one that will lead the Jews who leave the USSR directly to Israel. We concluded that we should continue efforts and pressures in this direction. The U.S. Government especially emphasized that it will not reduce efforts here; rather it will increase efforts, and will demand that Soviet Jews be allowed to lead their cultural and national life uninterruptedly as long as they are in the Soviet Union.

We exchanged views on the grave phenomenon of the appearance of sophisticated, long-range missiles in the Middle East. The United States and Israel take a very grave view of this phenomenon, and efforts are being made to tackle it. We agreed to continue the discussions with the U.S. Government in various forms on various occasions, and it is possible although not yet certain that the secretary of state will visit the region once again. I dedicated a considerable part of the time to appearances before and contacts and talks with the large Jewish public in the United States. I met with leaders as well as the rank and file from different circles and social strata, rabbis, educators, youths, intellectuals, Jews from every walk of life there. Although there had been certain attempts to split U.S. Jewry and push it to express criticism of the State of Israel, although there had been influence on certain personages to bring their influence to bear with the administration to have it pressure Israel, I learned from my daily contacts that the decisive majority of U.S. Jews enthusiastically and loyally supports Israel and sides with the Israeli Government unreservedly. A great many uphold our policy, even openly expressing this position to the administration, Congress, and the media. During my stay in the United States I was flooded with numerous calls of support, hundreds and thousands of them, calls that braced me and expressed total solidarity with everything I say and do. It is clear that Israel's friends as well as U.S. Jews are concerned about what they see on television screens and yearn for the day when these criminal attacks on the State of Israel stop.

In conclusion, I return pleased, especially after an attempt had been made to intimidate me prior to my departure for the United States. I thought the trip would be very difficult and accompanied by negative manifestations. I am pleased this was not the case. I am happy I prolonged this trip. Of course, I will brief the Inner Cabinet and cabinet about the visit very soon, about all issues that were discussed and the proposals and ideas that arose. Likewise, we will hold deliberations in the cabinet and Inner Cabinet about the position of the Israeli Government regarding the plans that have been raised lately. At the same time, it is clear today to all circles in the United States that the State of Israel and people of Israel have always been and still are the main element in the Middle East that is pushing and acting for peace. Thank you.

[Voice of Israel political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, in view of your talks in Washington and the announcement by the U.S. secretary of state—his spokesman yesterday stated that the secretary does

not intend to arrive in the region shortly—do you believe the Shultz initiative still exists? Will the Inner Cabinet indeed vote and decide on this in the coming days?

[Shamir] Well, whether the initiative exists should be determined by the U.S. Government, since this is its initiative. We will hold discussions and consultations in the cabinet and make a joint decision as to how and what to decide.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, during your absence we witnessed an extraordinary security event with regard to the riots in the territories over the last 3 months: An IDF soldier was murdered in Bethlehem. What is your reaction, sir?

[Shamir] Well, I do not think that during the first moments after landing I should immediately evaluate and react to this. I assume the security authorities have been discussing this, and in the coming days I will join these discussions.

[IDF Radio correspondent Dov Gilhar] Just before your departure from the United States it was reported that you said the most urgent task is to restore order to the territories, and that you intend to demand that the defense minister exercise a firmer policy. Sir, how do you intend to restore order to the territories? What firm measures that have not been adopted yet are there for Mr Rabin to adopt?

[Shamir] I do not know whether you quoted me correctly. In any event, I indeed think the most important task we are faced with is to restore order and normal life to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Jerusalem Television correspondent Yoram Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, is there a timetable requiring a cabinet or Inner Cabinet decision as soon as possible? Is the United States asking that we give an answer as soon as possible?

[Shamir] Nobody has imposed anything upon us, including a timetable. This is up to us, contrary to what was said before I left.

[Ronen] In other words, the United States and Secretary of State Shultz do not require an answer from us; they are not adhering to the timetable of 1 April for an international conference, 15 April for...

[Shamir, interrupting] I am not faced with any special requirements connected to a timetable. Incidentally, no answers have yet been received in the United States from any other element in the Middle East.

[Ronen] Do you expect a negative answer from Jordan?

[Shamir] I cannot guess.

[Ronen] Do you stand behind the declaration by Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of your office, who said that Israel will do everything it can to eliminate the missiles in Saudi Arabia.

[Shamir] He subsequently denied this. He did not say this.

Says Cabinet Vote Possible

TA231307 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] The Likud ministers held a lengthy meeting with the prime minister this morning, and heard a report on his talks in Washington. Our political correspondent reports that the prime minister does not intend to put Shultz' initiative to a vote in the Inner Cabinet meeting today. Shamir said, however, that there will be a vote if Peres proposes a positive response to the Shultz initiative, though he would rather await the Arab countries' reply.

Shultz Statements Show U.S. 'Deceit, Trickery'

TA221928 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Shultz and the Bias Toward Israeli Security"]

[Text] In an article in THE WASHINGTON POST 2 days ago, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz tried to portray himself as a neutral mediator in the peace process between the Arabs and Israel when he said the United States has pledged to work with integrity, resolve, and tenacity to bring the Arabs and the Israelis to the negotiating table. Despite the fact that in his article the U.S. secretary specified neither the characteristics of this table nor its prerogatives, his very biased tone in favor of the strategic ally clearly shows the real shape of the negotiating table he has in mind. This table will be according to the Israeli standard, one that attaches no value to the will of the international community which has often determined that the framework of an international conference with full authority is the practical and real opening for the establishment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

We would have been ready to believe what Shultz says had he proved even once his respect for the noble values and principles on whose basis the international organization was founded and in which the United States is considered a major member. How is it possible to reconcile oneself with Shultz' talk about impartiality when his administration stands alone before the entire world at the Security Council and opposes even the leveling of verbal criticism at universally condemned Israeli policy? How can we believe U.S. intentions to maintain peace as long as the U.S. Administration continues to overlook the practices perpetrated by Israel in the occupied territories and provides it with diplomatic support and military assistance to consolidate its hold?

How can we deal with U.S. plans as long as the U.S. Administration pursues us even in the United Nations, which has recognized the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people? The desire to activate the peace process requires one first and foremost to abandon the bias toward Israeli security and to view reality in its new dimensions outside the context of the Israeli perspective. It also requires one to deal with the will of international consensus which has called for the convocation of an international peace conference with full powers attended by all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO. Such a conference with its international qualifications can invalidate the security pretext since this conference will be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, which will place certain conditions and restraints in a way no one will be able to violate.

Hence, Shultz' misleading statements reaffirm the U.S. position's continued adherence to the Israeli perspective, and reveal that the U.S. Administration is continuing its approach of deceit and trickery. At its core, Shultz' talk about impartiality and concern for peace is very far from real peace. This talk is aimed at fooling the Arabs and saving Israel from its stifling isolation.

Arabs Need Unified Response to Shultz Plan

TA221818 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
18 Mar 88 p 1

[Editorial: "From the Fes Plan to the Shultz Plan"]

[Text] Are the Arab states still committed to the Fes plan which since its proclamation by the Fes summit has expressed an Arab consensus regarding a political solution of the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict in general? This was the question posed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to all Arab leaders in his call to confront the plan of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on one hand, and on the other to convene an emergency Arab summit to prepare for this confrontation on a clear and firm pan-Arab basis.

One Arab side on the basis of its own specific interests cannot determine its position toward this U.S. plan separately. The Fes plan includes a unified and determined Arab position in this regard. No Arab side can violate this plan of consensus that represents the will of 21 states in addition to the PLO itself. Since the Shultz plan, by means of this U.S. secretary's previous shuttle trips and his possible trips to the region's capitals in the coming 2 weeks, has now been turned into a U.S. tool for direct pressure on certain Arab parties, the Arab states are required to convene their emergency summit as soon as possible, with the participation of them all, to confirm their clear pan-Arab will regarding one problem that cannot be placed on the sidelines, namely the Palestinian problem.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington and his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz have highlighted the current U.S. Administration's insistence on subduing even a minimum Arab will, and on peddling a political settlement in the Middle East which in the final analysis constitutes a historical liquidation of the entire Palestinian cause, despite the reported disagreements between these two strategic allies, the United States and Israel.

What will the Arab states do in the face of this continuing and escalating U.S. offensive? Will they at least affirm their commitment to the Fes plan which guarantees a just and comprehensive peace in the region through an international conference attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO? At their upcoming summit will they act to reinforce this new historical affirmation? And will they stand openly and without ambiguity and vagueness before the U.S. Administration and tell it that the disagreement is not so much between Shamir and Shultz as it is truly and basically between Washington and all the Arab capitals, so the desire of all sides for a comprehensive, just, and durable peace would be achieved?

Majority Not Dealing With 'New Reality'

TA221956 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
20 Mar 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Unified Arab Position and its Significance in Confronting the Huge Challenges"]

[Text] It is certain that U.S. policy was and will remain physically linked to a strong strategic alliance with Israel. In the wake of the visit by Shamir to Washington and his rejectionist stance toward the Shultz initiative, something appeared in a comment which apparently reflects Washington's anger at Shamir's unyielding position and seemingly contains a warning to Israel. President Reagan affirmed that "those who reject the American peace plan must answer to themselves and their people." He also hinted at the necessity of launching peace negotiations as soon as possible.

This stance by the U.S. President would have made sense were he staying in the White House for a year or two, but when this anger comes from a President who only has a few months left in office, Israel will be able, through its shrewdness, to maneuver and procrastinate in order to waste time. The new U.S. President will require a long time to work out a new U.S. policy for the Middle East, and this is the exposed Israeli scheme. Israel rejects the Shultz plan and the principle of withdrawal from the occupied territories. Israel's leaders believe that time is working in their favor. What is sad and regrettable is that 100 days after the uprising in the occupied territories, after the troubles and events, not only has no change occurred in Israeli political thinking, but it has become more extreme and inflexible.

True, the uprising has awakened the conscience of some Israelis, but the majority refuses to deal with the new reality and insists on ending the uprising and restoring the previous situation. Everyone knows, however, that it is impossible to turn back the hands of time. In the face of these stances, Arab and Palestinian leaders are required to consult and exchange views to emerge with a unified Arab position to confront the huge challenges facing the Arab homeland and the Palestinian cause. In the absence of such a unified position, Israel will succeed in blaming this or that Arab side for hindering the peace process.

Schiffer Insists Aide Made Remarks on Missiles

TA221727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Our correspondent in Washington Shim'on Schiffer insists that Mr Ben-Aharon did make the remarks [on the possible removal of Saudi missiles]. Our correspondent notes that two reporters accompanying the prime minister on his trip heard the recording on this issue. One of them even quoted the remarks in THE JERUSALEM POST. Our correspondent notes that in the interview, held several days ago, Ben-Aharon was asked whether the United States is aware of the possibility that Israel may remove the missiles by itself if U.S. efforts prove unsuccessful. Mr Ben-Aharon answered that this possibility always exists, and that we are known as a country that does not wait for a potential danger to turn into a real one.

Rabin: Civilians Can Shoot Firebomb Throwers

TA221618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin today announced that civilians who are attacked by Molotov cocktails are entitled to fire at the assailant, as long as it is a lone assailant who aimed the Molotov cocktail at a specific target. Minister Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee members that approximately 3,000 inhabitants of the territories are currently under detention in military prison installations and that the transfer of funds through the Jordan bridges has been stopped, although not completely.

Further on Rabin Statement

TA221854 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] Our aim is to strengthen our administration in the territories, as much as to reduce the level of violence, Defense Minister Rabin said to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Those being arrested are rioters, and in particular, the organizers of riots. The order issued to troops to open fire on those who throw Molotov cocktails is not new, Rabin said, but it was suspended at the beginning of the riots because at that time, the petrol bombs were being thrown from inside huge crowds, and senior officers feared the order would lead to mass killings. Now, Rabin said, there are no mass demonstrations, and the firebombs are being thrown by isolated individuals.

Rabin said steps were being made to restrict the flow of money from across the bridges. The amount each person could bring in was reduced by 80 percent. Supervision of the Cairo Amman Bank in Nabulus and the bank accounts of the Arab welfare societies has been stepped up. The movement of Arab money changers and their agents across the bridges was also being restricted. Steps have been taken to make the Arab population more dependent on the Civil Administration, for example, when they needed any kind of license. Anyone wanting to open a shop for example, must keep it open all day, Rabin said, and any trader who opened his shop only in the hours permitted by the PLO would have it sealed up by an army welder. The Israeli bus company Egged was no longer sending buses to the Arab villages in the territories because 30 buses had been burned.

Asked about Ge'ula Kohen's charge that media cameramen were being tipped off in advance about Sunday's murder of Sergeant Moshe Katz in Bethlehem, Rabin said he knew of no case in which cameramen arrived at a riot because of prior knowledge, but Ge'ula's complaint was being investigated. Knesset Member Yosi Sarid said: Of the approximately 100 Palestinians killed since the outbreak of the riots, 10 were killed by Jewish settlers. Rabin replied that the Israelis who entered the Arab villages are usually marginal extremists, sometimes not even residents of the territories.

Senior officers reported to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee about the Chinese missiles which Saudi Arabia has purchased, and the missile war between Tehran and Baghdad, but no details were available.

Spokesman Clarifies Remarks

TA221919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] The Defense Ministry's spokesman has clarified remarks attributed to the defense minister on regulations for opening fire by civilians who are attacked with Molotov cocktails. The spokesman says that permission to do so is given only to those whose life is in danger, and is not valid if it is possible to extricate oneself from such an attack. Earlier it was reported that the defense minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that civilians who are attacked with Molotov cocktails are allowed to shoot at whoever threw if it is a single person acting against a definite target.

Knesset Briefed on New Measures

TA221357 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that there has been no change in IDF orders on opening fire. He said the only change has been the reintroduction of

the order granting permission to shoot at Molotov cocktail throwers. This order was in effect during the start of the disturbances following a recommendation by the military echelon. In today's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session Minister Rabin described the means the defense establishment is using to restore calm in the territories. The first is to use force to prevent violence; the second is a series of detentions and trials; and the third is a series of administrative and economic steps.

Our correspondent in the Knesset Natan Gutman reports that Minister Rabin also said the proceedings regarding administrative detentions have undergone a change, and that today it is possible to carry out detentions in the territories more simply. At present 3,000 people are under detention in military installations in the territories.

Peres Tours Gaza Strip, Recommends Solution

TA221520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres says it would be a mistake to get up just like that and leave the Gaza Strip. Such a measure could lead to chaos, just as happened in Lebanon. According to Peres, the desired solution is autonomy or an arrangement with Jordan that will prevent the presence of a foreign army in Gaza, meanwhile enabling another element to run matters instead of us. Our correspondent Aharon Barne' reports that Minister Peres said this at the end of a tour of the Gaza Strip, during which he met with Gush Qatif settlers, former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, and a leader of the local Islamic university.

Schiff Article Warns of Anarchy in Territories

TA221236 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 88 p 13

["A New Stage in the Uprising"—second and last installment in a series of commentaries by Ze'ev Schiff: "A Review of the Situation in the Territories"]

[Text] Israel's 3-month-long failure to calm the territories down may create a new and very negative military situation. Several facts lead to this conclusion: The radicals in the territories have grown more powerful, and it is they, rather than the moderate elements, who are dictating the events. The longer the uprising continues, the louder their voice is liable to become. The number of large, violent demonstrations has decreased, but the rioters' daring is constantly increasing. This is reflected in the Molotov cocktail attacks along main traffic routes, the tendency to shift to the use of firearms, and the nature of provocative acts toward soldiers.

The IDF will eventually learn that the current method of "taking care of" rioters by pursuing boys into alleys, up hillsides, etc., is liable to bring soldiers to the point of exhaustion, especially when older reserve soldiers arrive in the area. There is an increasing tendency among settlers to take the law into their own hands. There are growing signs of an illegal contingent of settlers operating permanently in Qiryat Arba'. The settlers often contribute to the soldiers' fatigue and disrupt the army's operations against the rebels. These phenomena are liable to bring about an explosion so great in magnitude that it will end in civil war and chaos. It is no wonder that the threat from this direction has prompted IDF commanders to say that the problem of undisciplined settlers is the most worrisome, from their point of view.

The soldiers' frustration is growing. They ask difficult questions, and many of them demand the right to use their weapons against the provocative rebels. They claim that the use of clubs was appropriate at one stage, but that it is now becoming evident that method has not prevented deaths; the current situation calls for much more fundamental treatment. It is not inconceivable that the soldiers will eventually burst under the strain. There is no doubt that this situation is eroding the IDF's deterrent capacity vis-a-vis the rebels, and that this negative perception could spread to the Arab states, as well as to the radical elements within the Israeli Arab sector.

Egyptian Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah said only recently (in an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA') that Israel after the Lebanon war and after the uprising in the territories is a different Israel. "Its strategic importance and its role have changed completely."

The solution to these problems cannot be found merely in the new technical implements which the IDF has received. The gravel launcher will not bring us salvation. The role of this air cannon that fires gravel particles is to deal with some of the symptoms of the uprising. Partial economic sanctions, such as closing some of the gas stations in the West Bank or disconnecting telephone lines, will not cause a turnabout in the uprising at this stage. They can, at the most, exhaust the shopkeepers, but will not prevent the aforementioned phenomena. At this stage, rapid, drastic measures are what is needed.

I am writing these lines with mixed feelings, since it is obvious to all that half of the cabinet ministers are thinking only in terms of quelling the uprising, in order to avoid a future dialogue and to continue to do nothing in the political sphere. They are willing to wait for the next uprising and the one after, even if this results in a war with the Arab countries.

Of course, had Israel accepted the Shultz initiative, it would have been easier to implement drastic measures to quell the uprising. It would have been better if, after having shown that Israel can no longer push the Palestinian or demographic problem aside, the Palestinians had taken up the opportunity laid at their doorstep in the form of the U.S. political initiative. This, however, is not the case right now. Therefore, the decisive factor currently should be the military consideration. From the

military point of view, this is the time to take firm measures to prevent anarchy from spreading in the territories. Just as we took the initiative in preventing the arrival of the "boat of return" to the shores of Israel, so now it is necessary to take firm steps in the territories to prevent loss of control and stop the extremists from gaining strength, as this would exact a still higher price in the future.

By firmer measures I mean first of all the need to handle the agitators who stir up the ferment. After 3 and 1/2 months, we presumably know better exactly who is organizing the riots, who forms the operational backbone, and who is moving the uprising forward. If this information is indeed available, it should be used quickly to take action as warranted, even if this involves thousands of people. This should be done even if it requires the allocation of additional manpower to the territories. At the same time, it is necessary to change the instructions on opening fire at those who throw Molotov cocktails at passing vehicles, and to impose stiffer penalties on those caught red-handed.

These are only some possible measures. The instigators should no longer be permitted to conduct a "luxurious war," the kind of warfare they have thus far enjoyed in a variety of areas. Right now things depend primarily on the IDF and its top brass. It is my impression that as far as Defense Minister Rabin is concerned, the IDF would have no problem obtaining approval for the implementation of harsher measures, beginning with firing instructions, through blocking the export of agricultural produce, down to banning the departure of Arab employees for work in Israel. Certainly the IDF will encounter no difficulty in seeking government approval for these measures.

Incidentally, it should be pointed out that although 3 months have elapsed since the outbreak of the uprising, no minister—with the exception of Shim'on Peres and, naturally, the defense minister—has visited the IDF soldiers serving in the territories. Some visited the settlers, but no one visited the soldiers. And how many Knesset members have done so? The IDF officers, too, cannot ignore this fact. Actually, it was they who pointed this out to me. Would more drastic measures be sufficient to extinguish the uprising completely? The answer is negative. The situation in the territories will never revert to its previous state. Control of the Palestinian population in the future will be far more difficult and complex. At the moment, the problem is how to maintain control, and how to prevent an erosion and radicalization which would block any path toward a dialogue if the Israeli Government should want this.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Khan Yunus Camp Under Curfew

TA221742 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed today on the Khan Yunus refugee camp following disturbances there. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the curfew on the Sabura neighborhood in Rafah is still in effect. The law enforcement system in the Gaza Strip is hard pressed following the resignation of 400 policemen there. Senior police officers in the area told our correspondent Steve Rodan that following the resignations they have received dozens of complaints about burglaries, robberies, rapes, and even murders. It is impossible to deal with these incidents, however, and the complaints are being transferred directly to the local district attorney's office. At the same time the courts in the Gaza Strip are paralyzed, since there are no policemen to interrogate witnesses.

Duty for Reservists Examined

TA230625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has learned that the IDF is examining the possibility of calling up reservists for special duty in the territories for several months at a time in order to help ease the present pressure on the army. Our correspondent says that this mobilization will be similar to the special call-ups carried out during the war of attrition along the Suez Canal. Our correspondent also reports that arrests continue in the territories. Most of the detainees are suspected of participation in the Al-Shabibah youth movement activities.

Sweeps Continue; Arrests Made

TA231135 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] The army reportedly continued its early morning sweeps into several Arab villages and made arrests. Today the territories are reported fairly quiet. Steve Rodan reports: The territories this morning reflected little of the violence seen during the past few months. Military sources report no unusual incidents in Judaea and Samaria, or in the Gaza Strip. Municipalities are operating as well as public transportation. The exception is the Janin area where many buses are idle. Many workers have reported to their jobs in Israel, the exception being the Hebron area. Many stores, however, are closed today despite Palestinian activists permitting them to operate between 0800 and 1100 in the morning. Stores in Nabulus, for example, were either closed or their shutters were partially open.

The Gaza Strip saw many of its workers leave for Israel this morning. Military sources report that schools are busy with students, and apart from some stonethrowing incidents, the Gaza Strip is reported quiet. Palestinian sources said the calm has come at the price of many arrests. Nearly every morning the residents of various Arab villages report that the army entered the area, and arrested dozens of people. Last night, the army reportedly entered the Samarian village of Qabatiyah and made arrests. In the Gaza Strip, the arrests were made in the town of Dayr al-Balah; the town was then placed under curfew.

The Army has confirmed that arrests are being made, but won't give further details. Military sources say the refugee camp of Khan Yunus, as well as the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah are also under curfew. This following violent disturbances in both of these areas.

MAPAM To Run on Independent Election Ticket

TA202005 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Excerpt] MAPAM will run in the next elections on an independent ticket. This has been unanimously decided by the party's Central Committee this evening. The Central Committee has also decided that MAPAM will exhaust every possibility of establishing a joint front of peace-seeking Zionist and Arab bodies. [passage omitted]

Ya'aqobi on Early Elections, Unrest, Economy

TA221250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Economics Minister Gad Ya'aqobi this morning called for early elections in 35 days, if Prime Minister Shamir brings about the rejection of the Shultz initiative in the cabinet. He also called for a political solution because he said it was an illusion to believe the status quo could continue indefinitely. Harley Braidman reports: Ya'aqobi told reporters in his office that elections could be held at the end of May, within 5 weeks of being declared, if Shamir turned down the Shultz initiative to put an end to the political uncertainty. The election campaign should last 21 days, and political party broadcasts on television 14 days, to keep political bickering down to a minimum.

The situation in the territories would never return to what it was previously, he said, and Israel should take the initiative to bring about a political solution by accepting the Shultz initiative, which would improve its situation internationally and politically. But what if there were no partner to negotiations, I asked Ya'aqobi. This made no difference, he replied. He believed there would eventually be talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but even if they were deadlocked, or the Arabs refused to negotiate under the Shultz plan, it would have a positive effect on the State of Israel.

Referring to the situation in the territories, Ya'aqobi said the effect on the national economy was over 500 million shekels, but the damage was minimal, except in the building industry. Ya'aqobi also called for a package deal on an overall economic and social basis. He said this need not include devaluation, because without steps to neutralize inflation such a step would be counterproductive. There were other ways to compensate the exporters, he said. He also thought the European Parliament would ratify the new trade protocol with Israel soon.

FRG Justice Minister Engelhard Arrives 22 Mar

TA221840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] FRG Justice Minister Hans Engelhard came to Israel today. He said that any attempt to compare the events in the territories to the acts of the Nazis must be rejected because this is an insult to holocaust victims. In a news conference in Jerusalem Mr Engelhard said the German public was indeed shocked by the events in the territories, but at the same time is committed to Israel and its security, as well as to the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Mr Engelhard also said his country will make every effort to bring Nazi criminals to trial. Answering a question posed by our correspondent Gid'on Remez, Mr Engelhard admitted it is known that the Nazi criminal Alois Brunner is in Syria, but so far all attempts to extradite him have failed. The guest from Bonn said that regimes who harbor criminals do not hand them over easily. Also regarding this visit: Germany and Israel will soon sign a pact for preserving sites of Jewish heritage in Germany and will hold reciprocal visits of jurists. This was said by Mr Engelhard and his Israeli counterpart Avraham Sharir. The two will also discuss ways to further bilateral cooperation in antidrug measures and in the war against terrorism.

Al-Tufayli Calls for Kidnapping More Americans

NC230555 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli [Hizballah leader] has called for the kidnapping of more Americans. In an interview with the AL-WIHDAH AL-ISLAMIYAH magazine, he said: If Muslims can detain the entire unjust American regime, not just one, two, or three, then they must do so, because the United States is the cause of all our misfortunes and calamities. He accused the UN forces operating in Lebanon of being a cover for U.S. spies.

Ayatollah Rohani Interviewed on Al-Sadr Claims

PM221235 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
18 Mar 88 p 16

[Interview with Ayatollah Mehdi Rohani, Shi'ite spiritual leader in Europe by Zaki Shihab in Paris on 14 March]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Why have you released information [about missing Lebanese Shi'ite leader Musa al-Sadr's imminent reappearance] at this particular time?

Rohani: I would like to make a point that may perplex some people: Musa is my cousin, and my concern for his case is purely a family matter. I have kept track of the issue since its beginning. However, I stopped pursuing it following the declaration of the Islamic Republic, because I thought that the Islamic Republic would assume the task of pursuing it. But nothing of the kind has happened. After finding that no result could be hoped for, I renewed my initiative to contact the officials I believe have something to do with the issue. My relations with Musa, despite being relations of kinship, are also relations of strong friendship. We studied together in Qom. When he used to pass through Paris, he would visit me and stay at my house; his last visit was when he stayed at my house for 3 days in the company of Sadiq Tabataba'i on one of his trips to Africa. A while ago some individuals, in whose words and position I have confidence, told me that Musa is still alive and will soon make an appearance.

AL-HAWADITH: You previously announced that he would appear in Cairo, or in another neighboring state. Why Cairo in particular?

Rohani: That is what they told me, that there is an 80-percent chance of his appearing in Cairo. The day before yesterday, (the interview took place last Monday morning) they contacted me and said that he could reappear in Lebanon, but the situation there is not good or propitious. Going to Iran would create problems for him with Khomeyni. I have not seen him yet, but I hope it will be soon.

AL-HAWADITH: How would you describe those in whose words you have confidence? Are they an official Arab circle, religious people, or what?

Rohani: It is not good in this matter to disclose the source. But it is a trustworthy and important source, and I will soon meet with it in order to obtain tangible proof of Al-Sadr's whereabouts. I emphasize once more that I have no doubt whatsoever of the truthfulness of the information I gave on the case. I may be meeting with the individuals from whom I got this information on 20 March.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you think that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's decision to knock down the prisons has anything to do with it?

Rohani: The issue is far greater than that; it is political, and Musa's appearance will bring about changes in Lebanon, and even in the region.

AL-HAWADITH: Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has welcomed your statements, but he has warned you of the consequences if such a declaration turns out to be untrue.

Rohani: I do not want to play on people's nerves. I am a man of religion, and all my efforts and my struggle are for my cousin's safe return. I have no ambitions in Lebanon. I wish for the Lebanese, with all their various sects, to live in peace, happiness, and in harmony, far removed from sensitive matters. My political concerns are solely about my country, Iran, and no other.

AL-HAWADITH: Others say that these statements have been fabricated for political reasons. What have you to say about that?

Rohani: I have not thought for one moment of playing a political role in Lebanon. I am convinced of what I am saying. Let us leave Lebanon to the Lebanese. Hizballah, in my opinion, is two parties: the Iranian Hezbollah and the Lebanese Hizballah. Let the Iranian Hezbollah leave Lebanon and go back to Iran. First of all, there are people in need of its efforts there; second, has Lebanon not had enough calamities? As for the Lebanese Hizballah, it is free to do what it wishes in its own country. For us to beat about the bush is unacceptable. My reply to those people is what a poet said: I want them to live and they want to kill me; what a difference between their aim and mine.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Mrs Rabab al-Sadr in contact with you?

Rohani: I told you that my relationship with her is a relationship of kinship; we are in contact with one another. Also, Ayatollah Rida al-Sadr, the Imam's brother, a man of religion who resides in Qom, is in touch with me. It is a family matter on which we consult one another and of which we keep track.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you have any acquaintances among the Shi'ite religious men in Lebanon?

Rohani: I have heard of Shaykh Shams al-Din, but I do not know him. It could be that the prevalent Iranian conditions have prevented him from contacting me. As for Fadlallah, I do not know if he was one of the students of my brother Ayatollah Mohamed Sadiq Rohani in Najaf, but his relative Muhammad Rida Fadlallah was most definitely one of my older brother's students, with Najaf Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr and many top scholars besides. I previously obtained my credit in jurisprudence from all the scholars, and I studied jurisprudence at the Qom seminary 23 years ago.

AL-HAWADITH: Have you previously visited Lebanon?

Rohani: Yes, I did, over 15 years ago.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you have any friends there?

Rohani: My visit lasted 2 months, in which time I was forbidden to visit my country because of my dispute with the shah's regime. Of course, I have acquaintances such as Patriarch al-Ma'ushi, writer Michele Asmar, and relatives in Jabal 'Amil, who are of the family of Muhsin al-Amin.

AL-HAWADITH: Which Lebanese figures have contacted you to seek clarification on the reappearance of Musa al-Sadr?

Rohani: All of them, without exception, from the president to other leaders, and the leaders of the various sects, either through their representatives or directly.

AL-HAWADITH: Did Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri get in touch with you, for example?

Rohani: I cannot mention all the names, but all of them got in touch with me, Shi'ite, Sunni, Druze, and Christian, either by sending representatives or by phone.

AL-HAWADITH: As well as the French Government?

Rohani: Yes, the Foreign Ministry got in touch with me, as well as the various media organs here, and even people in the United States got in touch with me to inquire.

AL-HAWADITH: Why did you choose Paris as your place of residence?

Rohani: I will not hide the fact that I am one of the Ayatollah Khomeyni regime's opponents, despite the fact that I supported the declaration of the Islamic Republic. I was also an opponent of the shah's regime. I studied philosophy at the Sorbonne and took a doctorate. I also publish the newspaper ACQUAINTANCE WITH ISLAM in Persian and French, as well as being an authority for the sect in Europe.

AL-HAWADITH: What has led you to believe that your sources are right about Musa al-Sadr's being alive?

Rohani: My belief that Musa is alive and my continuous followup with those people who are following the case confirm that. They are a source of confidence, and the day will come when we will open all the files on this case for everyone to see. Are you not convinced that the reappearance of Musa will change the equations and conditions, at least in Lebanon and its milieu? Wait and see!

Syrian Ba'th Party Member Killed in Sidon

NC230635 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] According to exclusive information we have received, an explosion took place outside a center used by the pro-Syrian Al-Sa'iqah Palestinian organization in the old city of Sidon last night. It has also been learned that a member of the Syrian Ba'th Party Organization was killed in Sidon last night. It should be recalled that an official of the Iraqi Ba'th party was killed in Sidon some time ago.

Israeli Helicopters, Gunboats Seen in South

NC231153 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1143 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] An NNA correspondent in the south has reported that Israeli helicopters have flown at a low altitude over some southern areas. In addition, the outskirts of Kafr Rumman and Habbush came under 120-mm mortar fire at 1030 from agents' positions in Tallat Tuhrah. There are also reports that Israeli gunboats have been cruising in Lebanese waters off the shores of Al-Sarafand, 'Adlun, Abu al-Aswad, and Al-Qasimiyah since 1030 today.

Warplanes Overfly Sidon, Camps

NC231211 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted several reconnaissance flights over Sidon and the Palestinian camps this morning. Israeli helicopters have also overflown some villages in the south, while Israeli gunboats patrolled the southern shore.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Official Defects to Pakistan

BK210154 Hong Kong AFP in English 1757 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 20 (AFP)—A top Afghan diplomat has fled to Pakistan and asked for political asylum, a reliable source in the Afghan resistance alliance said Sunday. Muhammed Ghaws Amir, who was director of the Afghan Foreign Ministry's legal and judicial section, crossed the border and arrived in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar Friday, the source said.

Mr Amir was regarded as an important official in the Kabul regime and had formerly served as Afghan charge d'affaires in Czechoslovakia.

The source added that Mr Amir's defection had been carried out with the help of the anti-communist mujahidin resistance alliance.

Mr Amir is expected to address the press on Monday.

Wakil Sends Letter to ICO Meeting in Amman

LD221849 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Mar 88

["Open letter" from Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil to the chairman of the 17th conference of the ICO foreign ministers, which began 21 March 1988 in the Kingdom of Jordan]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Your Excellency the Chairman: Allow me, on behalf of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, to express good wishes to the participants of the 17th conference of the ICO foreign ministers. I would like to congratulate you on your election as chairman of the 17th session of the ICO foreign ministers. The Muslim people and the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, as one of the ICO's founding members, have always viewed their ICO membership with appreciation. Afghanistan deeply believes that this organization can play an important role in the consolidation of solidarity, understanding, and mutual cooperation among Islamic countries and for the best interests of the Islamic umah. We have consistently extended the hand of friendship, brotherhood, and cooperation in this regard and are sincerely bound to this principle in the future too.

Your Excellency the Chairman, it is a matter of regret that once again, contrary to the will of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the principles of the ICO Charter, the membership of the Republic of Afghanistan in the ICO remains suspended. As before I would like once again to state resolutely that this decision has political overtones and has been imposed through the conference by some ICO members. This decision, which has been made without considered and necessary assessment, is undoubtedly detrimental to the unity and solidarity of the world of Islam.

In the current year the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan carried out the broadest possible consultations with (?23) ICO countries. All these consultations and talks were constructive and positive. We believe that there has been resorts to pressure, provocations, force, and [words indistinct] to prevent Afghanistan's reentry into the ICO. These forces do not want Afghanistan to play its Islamic and legally effective role in realizing the hopes of the Islamic peoples of the world.

These activities result only in weakness and factionalism among ICO members, which is undoubtedly the aim of the enemies of the world of Islam, namely, the forces of imperialism, Zionism, and their allies. As an Islamic and nonaligned country, Afghanistan has consistently tried to improve and expand its relations with the Islamic countries including our neighbors, Pakistan and Iran.

Your Excellency, as you know, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan has adopted a courageous and constructive stand toward the political solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan. The national reconciliation policy is successfully advancing with the support of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

At the current round of talks in Geneva, Afghanistan has a displayed constructive and flexible approach toward finding a solution. The statements of Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, have in fact paved the way for a final solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan. Thus we have reached an agreement with Pakistan concerning the timetable for the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan within a 9-month period.

However, now that we are in the final phase of the Geneva talks the Pakistani side has created artificial obstacles and is thus trying to stall the signing of the Geneva agreements. The Pakistani authorities are trying to introduce new factors into the talks contrary to previous agreements. The recent factors that the Pakistani side has introduced are blatant interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and a serious violation of international law and the UN Charter.

We have consistently declared that Afghanistan is ready to seek a practical and logical solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan. We believe that the ICO can play a constructive role in this regard. Afghanistan observes the spirit of the Geneva talks and is loyal to it. We welcome every appropriate step in this regard which serves the all-round consolidation of Islamic unity.

The reentry of Afghanistan in the ICO would undoubtedly strengthen and restore the unity of the Islamic world. We sincerely hope that the 17th session of the ICO foreign ministers will adopt a realistic stance concerning our request. In this respect we are ready to cooperate with the ICO. As before, Afghanistan will do everything possible toward strengthening the ICO and for the best interests of the Islamic ummah and all mankind.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to express my confidence in your political wisdom and wishes for the success of the work of the 17th ICO foreign ministers conference.

[Signed] 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Election Law for National Assembly Published

LD212337 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, 19 Mar (BAKHTAR)—Election Law for the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Kabul, March 1988.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The Election Law for the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan:

Chapter I

General Provisions

Article 1

This law is designed to determine the number, conditions and methods of election of the members to the National Assembly in accordance with Article 80 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 2

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the National Assembly consists of two chambers—the People's Assembly and the Senate.

Members of the People's Assembly will be called delegates and members of the Senate, senators.

Article 3

In accordance with Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and in view of the provisions of this law, the election of all delegates and of one-third of the senators—two senators from each province and from each administrative unit equivalent to a province—will take place by direct ballot.

The senate candidates of the National Assembly will be nominated by the provincial councils and their equivalent units. They will be assessed by the sessions of the appointed executive committees, by the National Front, the political parties and organizations, and by the executive committees of their councils. The appointed senatorial candidates will be introduced to the president of the Republic of Afghanistan by the National Front, political parties, and social organizations.

Article 5

The delegates of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, will be elected by constituencies. The senators of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan will be elected from each province and administrative unit equivalent to a province without consideration of their inhabitants.

Article 6

The election of delegates and senators to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan will take place in accordance with this law on the basis of the right to general, equal, direct, and secret ballots.

Article 7 [heading only as received]

Article 8

The election of the delegates and senators to the National Assembly will take place simultaneously.

Each voter has the right to one vote.

Each voter will take part in the election in consideration of the principle of equality.

The candidates for delegate or senator can only stand as a candidate in one constituency.

The delegates' constituences will be created in consideration of the equal number of inhabitants.

Article 9

The election of the delegates and senators embodied in Article 5 of this law will be convened in a direct manner, thus the delegates and senators will be directly elected by the inhabitants.

Article 10

The election of the delegates and senators to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan will take place on the basis of a secret ballot.

It is impermissible to control the will and inclination of voters.

Article 11

The cost of the convocation of elections for the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan will be paid for by the state.

The candidates for the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan and the voters will be exempt from any kind of expenses.

Chapter II

The Method for the Convocation of Elections and the Creation of Constituencies

Article 12

The date for the convocation of elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan will be announced by the president.

The president's decree concerning the convocation of elections will be announced by the mass media at least 3 months before the convocation of an election.

Article 13

Two hundred twenty-nine constituencies will be created for the election of delegates of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, and 62 constituencies for the election of senators of the National Assembly.

Constituencies for the election of delegates to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan will be created in consideration of the equal number of inhabitants without consideration of the administrative divisions of the country.

In each province and administrative unit equivalent to a province, two constituencies, without consideration of their number of inhabitants, will be created for the convocation of election for senators to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The list of constituencies with precise boundaries both for the election of delegates and senators will be determined by the president and will be published at the same time the president decrees the date for the convocation of an election for the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Chapter III

The Electors and the Elected

Article 14

The election of delegates and senators to the National Assembly is by universal suffrage. All subjects of the Republic of Afghanistan who have reached the age of 18, excluding the insane, mentally ill, and persons who are in prison, or having been convicted or accused of a crime, enjoy the right to vote.

Every subject of the Republic of Afghanistan who has reached the age of 20 at the time of the convocation of an election can be elected as delegate, and if he has reached the age of 30 can be elected as senator.

It is impermissible to restrict, directly or indirectly, the right of subjects to take part in the election on the basis of nationality, race, language, religion, worship, political belief, education, occupation, parentage, wealth, social status, or residence.

Article 15

Members of the government, officers and generals of the armed forces, and all state employees, as well as private investors and those businessmen who are in charge of large economic establishments with more than 300 employees, can only be introduced as candidates for the National Assembly if they are discharged temporarily from their posts and duties.

Members of the government, officers and generals of the armed forces, and other state employees who are not elected to the National Assembly can take up their previous duties.

Governors and heads of districts who are elected as members of the National Assembly can carry out their previous duties, too.

Article 16

Women can participate in the elections as electors and as candidates equally with men, without any discrimination.

Chapter IV

The Elections Commission

Article 17

In order to hold elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan and to control the implementation of this law, the following elections commissions are formed: the Central Elections Commission, provincial elections commissions and their equivalent units, constituencies' commissions, and ballot centers commissions.

Article 18

The elections commissions for the National Assembly will be formed by representatives of youth, women, party organizations, and other social organizations, workers collectives, and military units.

The structure of the elections commissions will be published in the mass media.

Article 19

The Central Election Commission for the National Assembly will have a chairman, six deputies, [figure indistinct] secretaries, and 37 members. The structure of the commission will be approved by the president at least 3 days after determining a date for the elections.

The Central Elections Commission enjoys the following authorities:

1. Controling the implementation of this law throughout Afghanistan, and ensuring its equal implementation during the preparation and holding of the elections.

2. Explaining this law, when necessary.

3. Listening to the reports by the provincial, constituency, and ballot centers commissions, ministries, and departments of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning issues emanating from the type of preparation and holding of elections.

4. Establishing, preparing, and organizing the ballot forms, the type of ballot boxes, and publications of the elections commission, and providing for their transportation to the elections commissions.

5. Providing the funds for elections commissions, distributing money, controlling the supply of work room, transportation and communications facilities, and also assessing other financial and technical issues of the elections.

6. Studying petitions and complaints concerning illegal actions by the elections commissions and deciding on them.

7. Registering the names of the delegates and senators elected to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

8. Presenting to the commissions necessary documents concerning the credentials of the National Assembly in order to inspect the authority of the delegates and senators in connection with each constituency.

9. Carrying out other responsibilities emanating from this law.

Article 20

The provincial elections commissions and their equivalant administrative units are made up of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and 10 members, and will be formed in a period of less than 5 days after a date for the elections has been determined.

The structure of the commission will be approved by the executive committee of the relevant province and its equivalant administrative unit.

The provincial election commission and its equivalent unit enjoy the following authorities:

1. Controlling, throughout the province and its equivalent administrative units, the implementation of the orders of this law concerning the method for the preparation and holding of elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

2. Listening to reports by the local commissions and commissions for the ballot centers, the local state and social bodies, as well as by the personnel of the establishments concerning the issues emanating from the preparation and holding of elections to the National Assembly.

3. Preparing the list of delegates and senators who have been elected and sending them to the Central Election Commission within 3 days, together with documents of the elections.

4. Studying the petitions and complaints emanating from the illegal actions of the local commissions and ballot centers commissions.

Article 21

The constituency commission is made up of a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and 10 members, and will be formed in a period up to 5 days after determining a date for elections. The structure of the constituency commission, which will be formed by executive committee of the relevant province's council and its equivalent administration unit in the constituencies located along the territory of two provinces and their equivalent administrative unit, will be approved by the Council of Ministers. The constituency commission enjoys the following authorities:

1. Controlling the implementation of this law.

2. Directing the activities of the ballot centers.

3. Listening to the reports by the commissions for the ballot centers and the executive committees of the local councils stationed in the relevant region and by officials of other establishments and organizations concerning issues arising as a result of the preparation and the holding of elections.

4. Supervising the presentation and [words indistinct] of the list of those who want to be elected for public information.

5. Giving relevant certificates to those candidates who have been registered as delegates and senators.

6. According to reports by the ballot centers commissions, assessing the results of the elections in each constituency and sending the report to the provincial election commission.

7. Assessing the petitions and complaints concerning illegal actions by ballot centers commissions and other authorities of this law.

Article 22

Election commissions will be created in voting centers both for the National Assembly elections and the senate elections comprising a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and 6-10 members. The composition of the commissions will be approved by the Executive Committee of the province's council or its equivalent administrative unit during a period of 7 days after the announcement of the election date.

The authorities of the election commissions of voting centers will:

1. Prepare the list of voters and familiarize them with the list.

2. Anounce to the citizens the location of the voting center, the headquarters of the election commission, and also the date of the election.

3. Arrange for rooms for the casting of votes.

4. Organize the voting during the election.

5. Count the number of votes and register them in the protocol. Send the ballot protocol to the constituency election commission.

6. Assess the petitions and complaints regarding election issues and the organization of the voting, and make decisions regarding them.

7. Fulfill other functions in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article 23

The session of the election commission is convened by its chairman. In the absence of the chairman it is convened by his deputy. The quorum of the session requires the attendance of more than one-half of the members of the commission. The decisions of the commission are taken with the majority vote by the members of the commission. The decisions of the commission, if taken within their authority, must be implemented by the state and social organs as well as by all enterprises, institutions, and organizations. Complaints about the decisions of the election commission should be directed to a higher election commission. The decision of the Central Election Commission, which will be taken in accordance with the provisions of this law, is final and cannot be overruled.

Article 24

Members of the election commission, including its chairman, its deputy chairman, and its secretary can be dismissed from their duties by the organ which approved the commission's composition. Introducing a new member to the election commission and the approval of his membership is done in accordance with the provisions of this law. Members of the election commission will be relieved of their actual jobs in the following manner while preserving their salary and post:

—The chairman of the commission: 15 days before the start of the election until the end of the election.

—The members of the commission: 5 days before the start of the election until the end of the election.

Article 25

The parents, children, spouse, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, father-in-law and mother-in-law of a candidate for the National Assembly cannot be appointed as members of the constituency commission or of the voting center commission of the candidate's constituency.

Chapter V

Voter's List

Article 26

All citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who will be 18 years old on the date of the election and who reside temporarily or permanently in the relevant constituency will be entered in separate lists of voters for the National Assembly and the Senate elections. In the event of a lack of information concerning the date of birth, the date will be counted from the first month of the relevant year.

People who are insane and those citizens who are in detention accused of commiting crimes, and also foreign citizens and persons without citizenship who are residing in the territory of Afghanistan cannot be included in the voters' list.

People released from prisons on the date of elections will be included in the additional list and can take part in the election.

Article 27

The list of voters will be prepared by the election commissions of the voting centers during a period of 3 days after the formation of the election commission.

The voters list will be prepared taking into account documents of citizens registration offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the executive committees of the local councils.

Lists of the voters from among military personnel residing in military units will be prepared and signed by the commanders of the military units and presented to the election commission of the voting centers.

Article 28

Voters will be entered into a list where their names, date of birth, and place of residence will be registered.

Article 29

The list of voters will be posted for the information of the public in public places such as mosques, sacred places, voting areas, and buildings of executive committees of the local organs of state power and administration before the election in accordance with the decision of the election commission of the voting center.

The election commission of the voting centers will inform the citizens of the time and place of the posting of the lists through the executive committees of the local councils and will provide the facilities for familiarization with the lists.

Article 30

The citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan are entitled to complain if their names are not registered in the lists of electors as well as if their names or any other information in connection with the elector are registered incorrectly. The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to complain about the inclusion of those people, who, in their view in accordance with this law, do not have the right to vote.

Article 31

The complaints and objections by citizens concerning the issues mentioned in Article 30 of this law, will be sent to the commission for the ballot center. This commission is duty-bound to assess the complaint and objection within 7 days, make its decision on it, and bring changes in the lists.

The election commission's decision concerning mistakes in the list of the electors can be reviewed by the court of that province. This file should be assessed within 7 days after its receipt in court. The decision of the court is final and in connection with such decision a "document charge" is not payable. When the complaint or objection is removed, the commission for the ballot center will amend the list of electors in accordance with the decision of the court.

Article 32

In case the elector changes his address after the list is organized for public information, up to the date of elections, the commission for the ballot center will give a certificate to the elector according to his request and based on his right to vote. The certificate will be given based on the electoral list, in which a special note will be entered. The elector will be registered in accordance with the given certificate and, in view of his request, in the supplementary electoral list, at his new address and will take part equaly with all subjects in the elections. The supplementary list will be signed by the chairman and secretary of the elections commission and its document will be added to the supplementary list. [sentence as received]

Chapter VI

Nomination of a Candidate

Article 33

The candidate for the National Assembly, who will be elected for a period of 5 years, will be nominated by the National Front and social organizations attached to it, political parties, and social organizations that are not attached to the National Front. All the aforementioned organizations and/or a number of them can gather under one united bloc and by reaching an agreement they can nominate their candidates to the specific constituencies. The nomination of candidates for the National Asembly can only be carried out by the aforementioned central bodies of the parties and organizations.

The candidates for the National Council from among the nomads will be proposed by the Central Council for Nomads. In a session for the nomination of a candidate for the National Council, each of the participants has the right to assess the candidate freely, approve the introduction of a candidate, or present a proposal on rejecting him/her.

The decision concerning the nomination of a candidate for the National Council will be made by a majority vote by the central body of the relevant organization and will be delivered to the candidate immediatly.

A protocol will be organized for the nomination of each candidate, in which the name of the organization that introduced him, the location and time the session of the central body is held, the number of participants, the number of votes in his favor, the name of the candidate and his age, and the profession and address of the

candidate will be entered. The protocol of the session will be presented to the Election Commission where the balllot for the candidate of the National Assembly will take place.

Article 34

The subjects of the Republic of Afghanistan can become candidates only in one constituency for the National Assembly and Senate. A person that has been nominated as a candidate in a constituency cannot become a member of the constituency commission or the ballot center commission in the same constituency. If a candidate is introduced as a representative or senator and is a member of one of the aforementioned commissions, he will be released from his duties on the commission with the registration of his name as a candidate for the National Assembly.

Article 35

The central body of a political party or a social organization that has nominated a candidate for the National Assembly can change its decision concerning the candidate up to the time of the elections are held.

A decision in this regard will be taken in accordance with the law and will be presented to the commission for the constituency. If a candidate for the National Assembly changes his decision up to the time the elections are held, the candidate should present a request to the commission for the constituency.

Article 36

When a candidate is nominated for the National Council in accordance with this law, he will be registered by the constituency commission taking into account the proposal of the central body of a political party, social organization, Central Council for Kochies and/or based on the proposal by the individual. The registration of the name of the candidates for the National Assembly will be carried out taking into account the following documents:

The protocol of the authoritative body of a political party or social organization concerning the nomination of the candidate to the National Assembly and/or the written proposal by the subjects.

A request letter concerning the agreement of the candidate to become a candidate for the National Council in the relevant constituency. The constituency commission will organize a protocol on the registration of each candidate and will send it together with a request (letter) by the candidate concerning his agreement to be elected in the relevant constituency, to the Central Election Commission. The Central Election Commission will introduce the names of the candidates, during the 3 days after the registration, via the mass media and provide the necessary information about them.

Article 37

The constituency commission is duty bound to register all the candidates and give them certificates in accordance with this law.

Article 38

In case of dismissal of a candidate for the National Assembly, and if there is no other candidate, the constituency commission, with the agreement of the Central Election Commission, will propose to the organizations which introduced that candidate to introduce new people as a candidate for representative or senator.

When the possibility of introducing a new candidate will not be viable up to the date of holding elections, the elections in these constituencies will be carried out during the month after the end of the [word indistinct] of the National Assembly of Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 39

The organizations which introduce the candidate have the right to publicize the candidate and hold meetings with them after the constituency commission has registered the candidate for the National Assembly. The candidates will explain their aims and their program as a candidate representative or a senator during these meetings.

Article 40

A candidate for the National Assembly, after being registered by the constituency commission has the following rights:

1. He will receive a salary from his previous work place after being released temporarily in order to take part in the elections, and up to the end of the elections.

2. He will use freely all state transportation for passengers except taxis, within the limits of the constituency or city.

3. He cannot be prosecuted without the agreement of the president except in cases of an obvious crime.

Chapter VII

The Method of Holding Elections

Article 41

The election of members of parliament and of senators will be held simultaneously throughout the country in a period of 5-10 days.

Article 42

The election of members of parliament and senators will be held in the voting centers that will be formed in every constituency in accordance with the decision of the executive committee of the provincial council or its equivalent administrative unit.

Article 43

Votes will be cast in every voting center under the leadership and supervision of the election commission from 0700 to 1900.

Article 44

A ballot box with a distinctive sign will be allocated to every candidate of the National Assembly in voting centers.

The distinctive signs will be approved by the constituency election commission. It will be approved on the basis of drawing lots, which will be announced 1 day before the start of the election. The distinctive sign of every candidate and his photo will be fixed at the upper part of the ballot box and will be signed by all members of the election commission of the voting center and with the stamp of the commission.

Article 45

Special ballot papers will be prepared by the Central Election Commission.

Ballot papers for the members of parliament and the senators should be prepared in different colors.

Ballot papers will be transfered to voting centers by the election commission in stamped bags until 3 days before the start of the election and in amounts 10 percent greater than the number of voters.

The election commission of the voting center will open the bags 1 day before the start of the election, count the number of ballot papers, and register the result in the protocol. The protocol will be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the elections commission.

Article 46

Votes will be cast in a special room designated for secret ballot casting for the election of deputies and senators where the ballot box and a special place for the distribution of ballot papers will be situated.

Article 47

Every voter casts his vote himself. Every voter is given a ballot sheet at the ballot station by the election commission on the basis of the voters list and his identity card. After receiving the ballot sheet, the procedure for casting a vote is explained to each voter. Information is furnished about the distinguishing mark of each candidate.

Article 48

After obtaining the ballot sheet the voter enters the voting room, where the ballot boxes are. While voting the voter is alone. The voter places the ballot sheet in the box with the distinguishing mark and photograph of the candidate of his choice.

Article 49

At the end of voting the election commission for the ballot station opens the ballot boxes of each candidate for the National Assembly and, organizing the related protocol, sends them to the constituency election commission. If the number of ballots cast is more than 5 percent of the number of eligible voters, the election of representatives and senators is declared by the polling station, and a protocol is prepared to this effect by the ballot station. Otherwise, a new election is held the following day.

Before the ballot boxes are opened all uncast ballot sheets are to be counted by a member of the election commission of the station. They are then incinerated and the number is entered in the protocol. At the counting of ballots the candidates, their representatives, the representatives of the political parties and social organizations that introduced candidates, and representatives of mass media may attend.

Article 50

The election commission of the ballot stations [word indistinct] send the protocols of the vote counting, signed by all members of the commission, to the constituency election commission within 24 hours. Special opinions of the commission members, petitions and complaints that are received either during elections or while ballots are being counted, and other documents related to elections are attached to the protocol. The constituency election commission specifies the total number of electors in the constituency, the number of electors who have received ballot sheets, the number of electors who have taken part in the election, and the number of votes cast for each candidate on the basis of the election commission of the ballot station. The person who wins a plurality of votes of the electors is considered the winner. If a number of candidates win an equal number of votes, the winner is determined by casting lots. A special note is entered in this regard in the protocol and all commission members sign it. The winning candidates are registered at the courts of law.

Article 51

Election commissions of a province, or an equivalent administrative unit in accordance with the protocol of constituencies election commissions, execute the following tasks:

1. In line with Article 50 of this statute, specifing the results of elections which set out the winner of an election in two or more constituencies.

2. Arranging a protocol about the election of representatives and senators in the provinces and equivalent administrative units.

3. Granting documents regarding the election of representatives and senators.

The protocol about the election of representatives and senators is signed by a member of the provincial election commission of a province or an equivalent administrative unit and is sent to the Central Election Commission within 24 hours. With the protocol are attached documents that are received from the constituency election commission.

Article 52

The Central Election Commission considers the results of the election all over the country on the basis of the protocols of provincial election commissions and equivalent administrative units and registers elected representatives and senators of every constituency for the Wolasi Jirgah [lower house of parliament] and the Senate of the National Assembly.

The Central Election Commission can decline to register a representative or a senator in case of a breach of the provisions of this statute during the election or the counting of ballots and declare the election invalid. In this case new elections are held in 1 month in line with the decision of the Central Election Commission in accordance with the provisions of this statute.

Chapter VIII

Article 53

The election and appointment of senators, including in paragraphs 2 and 3, in the second part of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, also take place in the course of the time stated in this law. The president sends the list of the appointed senators of the councils of provinces and of the administrative equivalent and the list of the elected senators to the Central Election Commission 24 hours after the conclusion of the election.

Through the mass media the Central Election Commission informs the public of the results of the elections throughout the country and the list of members of the National Assembly up to a period of 7 days after the conclusion of the election.

Article 54

If the Supreme Council of the Republic of Afghanistan consider the authority of the parliament members and senators illegal or if a member of parliament or a senator looses membership during his term in office in the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, new elections are held in the relevant constituencies within a period of 2 months according to this law, the period of which will be fixed by the president.

If a senator or member of parliament looses its membership or authority in the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan in the final year of his term, a new election takes place only if the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan cannot execute its duties due to a shortage of members.

Article 55

After the commissions of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan assess the legality of the documents of the parliament members and senators which are to be created at the first session, permanent certificates will be awarded to members of the National Assembly. The certificates are provided uniformly and then are signed by the chairman or secretary of the National Assembly.

Article 56

The list of voters, the certificate form of voting, the election commission protocols, candidates certificate forms, and the color of the election papers are determined by the Central Election Commission. The form of certificate of parliamentary members will be determined by the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 57

The commission documents, except the documents included in paragraph 3, Article 19, of this law, concerning elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, will, after the conclusion of work, be sent to the organs that have affirmed the composition of the commission. The method of (?preservation) of the documents will be determined by the session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 58

This law has been approved in eight chapters and 58 articles and, in accordance with paragraph 1, Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, should be presented for endorsement to the president. This law, after its endorsement by the president, will be enforced and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Najibullah Message at Balkh University Opening

LD202239 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] At Balkh University, Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand read a message from Esteemed President Najibullah, to which we now draw your attention:

[Begin Keshtmand recording] Dear teachers, students, and friends, noble people of Balkh Province. The University of Balkh is opening today. Allow me to congratulate the students, teachers, and all of our compatriots on the opening of this educational and scientific center. Balkh, which has been called the mother of cities, is the cradle of the great men of education and learning. It is the birthplace of Mawlana Jalaluddin, Nasir Khosraw, and Rabi'a. We are confident that one day your university, too, will be transformed into a great cradle of knowledge and culture, not only to revive to the glittering culture of ancient Balkh but to develop it further.

Dear friends, despite the difficult problems caused by the undeclared war, our state has paid and is paying serious attention to the growth of sciences and education. The Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan has been transformed into a major center of scientific research. For the first time in the country's history a program of post-graduate studies has been started in the universities. The Islamic university will be opened in the country's capital in the near future. There will then be four universities functioning in Afghanistan.

In the years since the success of the April Revolution institutes and establishments of higher education, technical colleges and vocational technical schools have been opened in the country. The total number of students in these centers is now more than 20,000. All of this is a manifeatation of the fact that the training of national cadres is one of the most important directions of our republic's policy. It is obvious that under peaceful conditions we would have been able to accomplish more work and provide further opportunities for young people who are interested in education and knowledge.

Dear friends, your university is being opened on the eve of the new year. The year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 88] is becoming a part of history but the memory of this year will remain forever in the minds of our people. This year was the great year of national reconciliation. During this year we have succeeded in achieving considerable results in the political, economic, and social spheres.

In accordance with the new Constitution of the country, a multiparty system and a coalition government is being formed. This policy, despite all the obstacles created in its way by the irreconcilable enemies, is finding its way every passing day into the hearts of thousands of peace-loving people of our homeland and has been transformed into a true policy and the sole alternative for ending the war and bloodshed.

Sincere and serious efforts have been made by our country's leadership to solve the external aspects of the problems of Afghanistan, and its adoption of a principled and flexible position has brought about a true opportunity for succeeding with a political solution and for the rapid achievements of peace in our land. The people of Afghanistan have fixed their eyes on the successful conclusion of the Geneva talks. They believe that the Pakistani Government will display goodwill and political realism and not lose this historical chance for our regional dispute.

The struggle for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the maintenance of peace in the country is the most fundamental duty of all of us because, without succeeding in this goal, we cannot succeed in our other tasks.

Dear lecturers, it is your duty to teach the students and to transform patriotism, friendship among nations, and national reconciliation into their beliefsand to mobilize them in the struggle for the cause of peace. Let Balkh University be transformed into a true center for the training of cadres with a high level of proficiency, inspired by feelings of patriotism, a center of scientific research and culture.

Dear students, the homeland needs your knowledge, your strong and young hands. Concentrate on learning and art and reach the highest summits of knowledge and culture.

I wish great successes for all the teachers, students, and staff of Balkh University. The government, and the leadership of Balkh Province will extend all-round assistance in the future consolidation and development of the university.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

[end recording]

Hikmatyar Urges Mujahidin Government Support

BK180346 Hong Kong AFP in English 0333 GMT
18 Mar 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 17 (AFP)—Afghan resistanqe alliance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar issued an appeal here Thursday for worldwide recognition of a mujahidin government he said would soon be inducted inside Afghanistan.

Reiterating that the guerrillas will not lay down arms until a mujahidin government is installed in Afghanistan, the radical chief of the powerful rebel grouping also said he believed that Pakistan will not sign any accord in Geneva which would not be acceptable to the resistance.

At his first news conference in this border Pakistani city since replacing Muhammad Yunis Khalis this week, he called for worlwide recognition of the proposed mujahidin government, to be led by Ahmad Shah, saying it will be the best solution to resolve the Afghan conflict.

But even if the alliance request for a formal recognition was not heeded, "we will finalise a mujahidin's cabinet and establish it inside Afghanistan very soon," he said.

He said the alliance shelved a plan to send a mujahidin delegation to Geneva to facilitate UN-mediated talks on a comprehensive Afghan settlement, because the Soviet Union did not come out with a "positive response."

"Our opposition to the Geneva process has not changed and any accord reached without the mujahidin's representation will not be binding to us," he szid.

"We will not talk to the Kabul regime and will not share power with the murderous communist party" of Afghan President Najibullah, he added.

He said the mujahidin proposed government would represent all the Afghan nation but will not offer any post to the Afghan communist party.

He said Afghan refugees could not go home until the Soviets "leave along with their stooges and remove mines they have laid around cities, in jungles, and on highway roads and restore the Islamic mujahidin's government."

Mr Hikmatyar said Pakistan and the resistance shared a similar view on this issue.

He dismissed as "enemy propaganda" reports of disunity in the alliance and added that "we are passing through a sensitive period of our history and a difference of opinion on major issues facing the nation was something natural."

Replying to a question he said Moscow had been conveying its desire for an exchange of Soviet prisoners with the mujahidin detainees indirectly.

"But they will soon be compelled to hold direct negotiations with us on this and other issues concerning the future of Afghanistan," he said.

Asked how the rebels will fight if foreign arms aid was cut off as stipulated in the draft UN agreement, he said "mujahidin will never face shortage of weapons so long as the Soviets remain in Afghanistan as 80 percent of our arms are captured from the Soviets."

Correction to Decree on National Elections

This correction pertains to the item headlined "Presidential Decree on National Elections," published in the 21 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, on page 42:

Third paragraph, only sentence should read ...17-26 Hamal 1367 [5-14 April 1988]. (correcting dates)

India

Five Killed in Punjab Violence 21-22 Mar

BK221604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons, including two terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last night. In Hoshiarpur, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with police near village Todapur. In Amritsar District, a farmer, Shingara Singh, and his wife were shot dead by terrorists in village Akbarpura. Another farmer was gunned down by terrorists in a village under Chowk Mehta police station.

Police Sound Alert

BK230326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Delhi police have sounded an alert following intelligence reports that terrorists have sneaked into the capital and also in view of the sophisticated explosive devices used by the terrorists in Punjab yesterday. An official spokesman said that the people have been asked to remain watchful against the activities of antisocial elements and not to touch unclaimed objects lying at public places.

State of Emergency Opposed

BK230330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Six non-Congress-I chief ministers have expressed serious concern over the center's move to impose emergency in Punjab through the 59th Constitution Amendment Bill. In a joint statement issued yesterday, they described the move as a discriminatory strategy to create cleavage between the people of Punjab and those in the rest of the country. The chief ministers expressed the fear that provisions of the bill may be extended throughout the country. They asserted that the proclamation of emergency, even in Punjab, would violate the spirit of the Constitution. The signatories to the statement are the chief ministers of West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Haryana. The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha yesterday. It has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

1,400 Striking Bus Workers Arrested in Delhi

BK221256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] In Delhi, about 1,400 striking workers of DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] today courted arrests violating the prohibitory orders near Patel Chowk. The DTC workers are on an indefinite strike from the 17th of this month in support for their demands including revision of pay scales.

Davis Cup Match Against Israel Canceled

BK230749 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, informed the Lok Sabha today that India will not play Israel in the Davis Cup match being held in Tel Aviv next month. Responding to a short-notice question, he said the decision has been taken in view of the atrocities being committed on the unarmed Palestinians by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories.

Replying to supplementaries, the minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, said India's policy toward Israel has been consistent.

Iran

Khomeyni Cited on Ritual Purification, Burial

LD201351 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Imam Khomeyni has answered two questions from our triumphant operational commanders in the west of the country concerning the washing and burial of those who have been martyred in liberated towns and have no one to perform the purification ritual. Imam Khomeyni explained: If no one can perform the ritual act of purification, the ritual is unnecessary. They may be buried with their clothes. As for the consumption of perishable goods, he graciously noted that the warriors may use them, but if their owners are found they should be repaid, either in kind or their value. The following is the text of the two questions from the commanders and the reply from his holiness the imam:

The blessed presence of the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, greetings.

1. Some residents of Halabjah, the majority of whom are women, have been killed by the Iraqi mercenaries with chemical bombs. No one can perform ritual purification on them. Can they be buried without ritual purification?

2. Perishable goods have been found in some of the homes in the conquered towns, and if they are not used they will spoil. Can our fighters use them?

The answer to the first question: If no one, not even a person of the books [a Jew or a Christian, those whose holy books have been recognized by Islam], is found to perform the ritual act of purification, the ritual is unnecessary. Both the ritual of purification and of burial are likely to be unnecessary. They can be buried in their own clothes.

The answer to the second question: The fighters may use the perishable goods in those cases you cite. If they feel their owners may be found, they should keep a record of what they have used so may repay them, either in kind or their value.

Khamene'i Notes Lack of Soviet Support at UN

LD221906 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 22, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said here today that Iraqi forces have sustained heavy losses in the course of Iran's latest operations, Val-Fajr-10 but that world mass media are trying to downplay the victories achieved by Iranian Muslim combatants. President Khamene'i referring to liberation of Khorramshahr, in Khuzestan Province and the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw by Iran a few years ago, said the arrogant mass media were silent in that time too but finally the truth was unveiled and disgraced those who were trying to conceal these brilliant victories.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i made the remarks at Imam Reza's (AS) holy shrine to a large number of local people and pilgrims on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Husayn (AS), the third imam of the Prophet's (SAW) household, which is also named as the "Day of Pasdar" (Revolutionary Guards). The president said the only way to encounter Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is to launch operations like Val-Fajr 10, and further called for continuation of such successful operations. Muslim combatants of Iran are determined to inflict successive blows on the enemy, said the president stressing that they will remove Saddam from political scene of the region.

Addressing himself to the peoples of the world, Hoj. Khamene'i said "they should know what creature (Saddam) we are fighting." The Islamic Republic's enemy, equipped by superpowers is so ruthless that it drops chemical bombs on civilian people of its own towns and villages, he said. Lauding the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), President Khamene'i said the IRGC is defending the Islamic revolution like a "firm mountain." The world people should learn how faithful youths are fighting in Allah's path, he added.

Criticizing the Soviets, Khamene'i said when the U.N. Security Council was discussing Resolution 598 "we told the Soviet envoys that they should either stay alongside Iran and against the United States or stand beside Washington." The Soviet Union which claims to have revolutionary stands, said it would stay beside Iran, but

they practically failed to do so, he regretted. Should the superpowers find the weak points of the nations and feel that their opponents are hesitant and frightened, they would double their pressures, he said. "The only way to encounter the world powers is not to fear them" he added. The president also called on Iranian people to enthusiastically take part in the forthcoming Majlis (parliament) elections next month.

President Khamene'i Marks Start of New Year

Receives Army Commanders

LD211342 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—Army commanders met President and Chairman of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday and congratulated him on the start of the new solar Hejira year (1367). In turn the president felicitated the Iranian Army personnel on the occasion, and praised the active presence of the Islamic Republic's Army at the war fronts, which he said has cheered up friends of the Islamic Revolution and disappointed the enemies.

Khamene'i referring to the victorious "Val-Fajr-10" operations during the last days of 1366 recalled that Iranian combatants also carried out the successful "Karbala'-5" operations during the same period a year earlier. Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council Major General Qasem-Ali Zahir Nejad [name as received], Chief of the Joint Staff Brigadier General Esma'il Sohrabi, Navy commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan and a group of other high ranking commanders were present at the meeting.

Visits War Wounded

LD210824 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i visited war wounded combatants at Imam Khomeyni Hospital here at the early hours of the new Iranian year, Sunday afternoon. The president visited each combatant at his bed kissing his forehead and presenting him with a batch of flowers and a volume of the Holy Koran. The president also hailed the services of all physicians and nurses at the hospital and presented them with batches of flowers.

Khamene'i, Velayati Travel to Khorasan Province

NC220643 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i flew to Mashhad last night, and was welcomed at the airport by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Va'ez-Tabazi, the imam's representative and custodian of Imam Reza's shrine; Ayatollah Shirazi, Mashhad's Friday imam; clergymen; and several representatives of government institutions and offices. In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, President Khamene'i said he had come to the holy city of Mashhad to pay homage at the holy shrine of the eighth imam, peace be upon him. He also noted that he would thank God Almighty for the great and spectacular victory of the fighters of Islam, and would meet with the people of Khorasan Province, who are always present on the scene. Foreign Minister Velayati is accompanying the president on his trip.

Musavi Condemns Iraqi Chemical Weapons Attack

LD231002 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today described the latest Iraqi chemical attacks on the Kurdish town of Halabjah and its nearby towns and villages as "indeed one of the greatest crimes in the Middle East." He also said it was another disgrace for the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn in his criminal record of the past 7 1/2 years of the war he himself imposed on Islamic Iran. Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs on innocent and defenceless Kurdish inhabitants in Iranian liberated towns and villages in northeastern Iraq last week, martyring over 5,000 civilians and wounding another 5,000. Most of the victims of this heinous Iraqi crime are children, women and old men.

The desperate move by the Iraqi ruler came after his troops suffered another bitter defeat in the course of Val-Fajr-10 operations launched by Iran's Muslim combatants inside Iraq March 15. The enemy lost thousands of his men and more than 4,000 of them including high-ranking commanders were taken prisoners during the victorious operations. Foreign reporters including some from the West, who visited the operational region this week confirmed the extensive Iraqi use of internationally-banned chemical weapons against the Kurdish population of Halabjah.

Prime Minister Musavi who was speaking to a group of visiting members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), further stressed that Iran's Islamic combatants will continue to deliver their blows on the Baghdad regime in the war fronts for these "vicious acts." He further said that Iran's "chain operations" will continue until "the root of mischief is eliminated from the region." He said the Iraqi chemical attacks once again proved the innocence and oppression of the people of Iraq, particularly its Muslim Kurdish population.

Addressing himself to international conventions and world statesmen, the prime minister said the entire world was waiting to see their judgement on these blatant violations of human rights. "Your honor and prestige depends on this judgment," he said. The prime minister said foreign reporters of both friendly and hostile countries to Iran had personally witnessed the "live evidence

of this great crime of the Middle East" and he further assured international forums that "you will not be able to cover up a crime which is indeed a disgrace for the Middle East."

"By massacring the Kurdish and Arab people of Halabjah, Saddam very well exposed to the entire world the brand of peace he claims to be adhering to," Musavi pointed out. In conclusion of his remarks, the prime minister expressed confidence that the Muslim people in Arab states "will definitely not forget this great shame which Saddam has caused for the Arab community and will take revenge of Saddam and his backers for this vicious act."

Minister Informs UN of Iraqi Attacks on Kurds

LD2?2216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Interior Minister Mohtashemi has sent a letter to Jean-Pierre Hocke, the UN high commissioner for refugees. Minister Mohtashemi referred to the savage Iraqi regime's plan to attack and kill the defenseless residents of Kurdish villages with chemical bombs. He declared: The regime's troops and security police have driven more than 20,000 people from those areas. The majority of those affected are women, children, and old people, who have been compelled to leave their homes and flee to the Iranian border.

The interior minister also touched on the constant expulsion of Iraqi Muslims, both Kurdish and non-Kurdish. He stressed: The Iraqi regime's policy of expulsion is aimed at Shi'ites, Sunnis, Kurds, Assyrians, and other Iraqi religious minorities. It has left them wandering in the mountainous regions along the Iranian border, unable to find time to obtain proper clothing for the cold or bring along food to ward off starvation. In his letter, the minister expressed hope that the UN high commissioner for refugees will either visit those expelled from Iraq or receive the appropriate reports through his office in Iran, and inform the humanitarian people of the world of these crimes.

'Source' Denies Ties With Tunisia Sought

LD192228 Tehran IRNA in English 2210 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—A reliable source at Iran's Foreign Ministry Saturday denied foreign reports that the Islamic Republic was trying to establish contacts with the Tunis Government for resumption of diplomatic ties. The source told IRNA that these reports were totally unfounded. REUTER, quoting an unidentified source at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, reported earlier this week that Iran and Tunisia were after resumption of diplomatic ties.

Tudeh Party Message Outlines New Year Goals

LD221503 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] We extend our greetings on Now Ruz, the exciting celebration of spring and nature's rebirth, to the oppressed people of our homeland, who have left behind a year full of pain and war. We also greet the members and supporters of our party, who, under today's conditions, proudly carry the flag of battle for the betterment of the masses. In addition, we greet everyone who hopes for the spring of humane life and constructive social resurrection and a new day of victory. We greet you with the hope that our homeland, enslaved and war-ridden, will soon be filled with the perfume of spring flowers. We hope it will soon hear the pleasant singing of the birds of peace and freedom, under the blanket of unity spun by the forces of liberty and peace.

Dear compatriots: The year of 1366 is over. It was a year of struggle, steadfastness, and hope, and one of aches, pains, and worries. As the glorification of good and humanitarian traditions is part of our national character as Iranians, the people of our homeland think it proper to discard meaningless grudges and disputes at the inspiration of spring, nature, and regeneration. They want peace, reconciliation, freedom, and love to come into our lives. Alas, due to the regressive policy of the Velayat-e Faqih regime, our society has not tasted freedom, peace, or quiet for many years. This year, too, thousands upon thousands of families have lost their loved ones. Once again, on the eve of the new year, the war was extended to the cities. Defenseless people are the targets of missile attacks and air raids. They are killing our mothers, fathers, and children in large numbers, both at the fronts of the war of attrition and behind the lines.

The regime that should be defending its people from enemy attacks advertises death and martyrdom. The accursed shadow of war and death is cast upon our homes, and is disrupting the lives of our people. In every respect, the policy of the ruling clique runs counter to the interests of our million-strong mass of toilers. Unemployment, poverty, destitution, and homelessness are rife. Repressive organizations have made life miserable for the people and millions of Iranians are deprived of the most basic rights and democratic liberties. The criminal leaders of the regime openly defy the charter on human rights approved by the United Nations. The prisons are overflowing with those who have fought to bring the people prosperity. Dictatorship, self-interest, and obedience to the whims of a single man have replaced the will of the masses.

O free men and women, Khomeyni's religious, medieval-style dictatorship is the sworn enemy of the customs, culture, traditions, and rites of the peoples of our homeland. For many years, he and his friends have tried, and are still trying, to prevent the large-scale glorious celebration of Now Ruz. As always, we must foil this plot.

Despite our pain, suffering, and endless sorrow, we must welcome the new year with all our might. Now Ruz is a celebration of spring and the blossoming of nature. It is a glorious way to mark life itself. The celebration of Now Ruz on a large scale is, in itself, a struggle against the propagators of ignorance and death, a blow against those who began the family-destroying war, and a strike at our plundering, criminal reactionaries. We call on all free men and women, and on all who love mankind, not to forget or forsake war refugees, the disabled, bereaved families, and political prisoners and their families, during these days. This is a holy, humanitarian duty.

The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran extends new year greetings to all our countrymen. We, the members of the Tudeh Party, have always shared your joy and sorrow. We have never—not even for a moment—struck the bloody banner of struggle for the prosperity of the masses. We have offered, are offering, and will continue to offer great sacrifices for this goal. We are optimistic that our people's future will be prosperous. On the eve of the new year, which is dear to us all, the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran calls on you, free men and women, and on all revolutionary, freedom-seeking, progressive, and patriotic parties, organizations, and individuals to follow the banner of peace and freedom, two generally accepted slogans. You must make 1367 a year of unity and quickened struggle against the regime of self-interest. You must return us to the spring of freedom and life.

Long live freedom. Death to reaction. Long live peace. Death to war. Glory to Now Ruz.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran

[Dated] Esfand 1366 [20 February-20 March]

Foreign Media Cited on Gulf Shipping Attacks

Norwegian, Liberian Vessels Hit

LD221239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] According to REUTER, shipping sources in the Persian Gulf report that speedboats attacked a Norwegian ship carrying liquid gas today. A hole was ripped in the vessel, and the gas began to leak out. AFP cites Lloyds of London as saying the "Fumi", a small oil tanker flying the Liberian flag, was attacked near the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf this morning. The ship's hull was damaged and a fire broke out in the engine room.

Greek Tanker Set Ablaze

LD221845 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] According to REUTER, gunboats have attacked a Greek tanker near the UAE and have set it ablaze.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

Senior Iraqi Officers Captured

LD192145 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—A statement issued by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Saturday said there are many high-ranking Army commanders among the 4,000 Iraqi POWs taken during the victorious Val-Fajr-10 operations launched by Iran's Muslim combatants in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province last Tuesday.

It named 22 of these commanders including one major general and four colonels. The five are Maj. Gen. 'Ali Husayn Ubayd al-Aqawi, commander of Infantry Division 43 of the First Corps, Col. Isma'il Ahmad Hamid, commander of Commando Brigade One of the Fourth Corps, Col. Sha'tui 'Ali Salibi, commander of Commando Brigade One of Division 28, Col. Muhammad Rashid Hasan al-Na'imi, commander of Battalion 24, and Lt. Colonel Hamid Muhammad al-Karim, a commander of the so-called National Defence Forces.

Iraqis Suffer 800 Casualties

LD201211 Tehran IRNA in English 1207 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants in a patrol-combat mission in Qasr-e Shirin region, western sector, wiped out the 1st Battalion of Brigade 423 of Iraq's 21st Division Sunday, killing and wounding 800 Ba'thist soldiers and capturing 22 others. Announcing the above here today, a Joint Staff communique said that Second Lieutenant Yahya Zahid, commander of the 4th Company of the First Battalion of the above-mentioned brigade is among the POWs.

Iranian combatants also destroyed the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the same brigade by 30 to 50 percent and a commando brigade of the 2nd Iraqi Corps by 20 to 30 percent during the blitz, the communique said. It added that over 30 Iraqi vehicles, nine tanks and armoured personnel carriers and some mortar launchers and artillery pieces were set ablaze and several communications sets and binoculars seized intact by the attacking forces.

Communique No 3,148

LD211711 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants ambushed Iraqi troops in a southern sector Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties on the enemy and capturing 22 Ba'thist soldiers including some officers and NCOs, said a military communique here Monday. In its 3148th communique, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces, reported that Iran's naval

gunboats intercepted and searched a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed it to continue voyage after making certain it was not carrying cargo for the Iraqi regime.

The Islamic Republic Air Force in its reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday reconnoitered 78 vessels ignoring warning from a foreign naval fleet. Iranian anti-aircraft fire repelled intruding Iraqi warplanes throughout the western fronts Sunday, concluded the communique.

12 Foreign Ships Intercepted

LD221913 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports: While defending the country's southern waters and controlling shipping in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, the fighters of our naval fleet intercepted 12 foreign cargo vessels and tankers. The ships were allowed to continue their journey, as nothing suspicious was discovered. The Air Force carried out an effective patrol over the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman. Its operation was in support of the Navy's combat actions and efforts to pinpoint the location of foreign vessels.

The report notes that in the past 24 hours, the warriors of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were involved in several exchanges of fire in a number of sectors. The aggressive enemy suffered losses and was prevented from engaging in any activity.

Iraqis Use 'Chemical Bombs'

LD221012 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov., March 22, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on three villages around Marivan at 08:20 hours local time (04:50 GMT) today, martyring and wounding a group of people. The Iraqi planes also violated Marivan air space several times today and broke the sound barrier over the city before noon. Over 10,000 Iraqi Kurdish people have been martyred and wounded in Iraqi chemical attacks on towns and villages recently liberated by Iran in northeastern Iraq, particularly the town of Halabjah.

Tehran, Other Cities Raided

LD221707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] The Zionist Iraqi regime continued its savage deeds throughout the day today, launching air raids against residential areas in the cities of Shushtar, Kuhdasht, Orumiyeh, Tabriz, Dezful, and Ilam. A district in Abdanan was also hit. A number of our compatriots, including several women and children, were martyred or wounded in these savage attacks. In addition, several homes, as well as some businesses, a mosque, and a school, were damaged. Continuing their criminal deeds, Baghdad's criminal rulers used a missile to attack a residential section of Tehran this afternoon. A number of citizens were martyred or wounded, and several homes, as well as a school, were damaged.

MiG-25 Downed Over Tabriz

LD222027 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Text] An intruding Iraqi warplane of MiG-25 type, at 1530 hours local time today, was hit over the city of Tabriz, the center of East Azarbayjan Province, by the missiles fired by the antiaircraft units of the combatants of Islam and was downed over the mountains in the vicinity of the city. No news has been reported on the condition of the downed plane.

Missile Fired at Baghdad

LD230617 Tehran IRNA in English 0614 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 23, IRNA—A surface-to-surface missile was fired at a military center in Baghdad at 07:55 hours local time (04:25 GMT) today. According to a statement issued by the General Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) the missile was unleashed against Baghdad in retaliation for enemy attacks on civilian quarters in Iran Tuesday.

Guerrillas Ambush Iraqi Bases

LD231159 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 23, IRNA—Forces of Badr Division of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq ambushed enemy bases in Guk Tappah town, in Kirkuk Province of Iraq, killing or wounding scores of Iraqi Ba'thists Tuesday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Husayn (AS), the third imam of Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) household. The Iraqi mujahidin also destroyed an enemy base and seized several light weapons and R.P.G.-7 launchers and telecommunication sets. The forces returned to their base safely after capturing five Iraqi soldiers.

Pakistan

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives on 4-Day Visit

BK221601 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Jordan's King Husayn was given a warm reception on his arrival in Islamabad today on a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. He is accompanied by Queen Nur and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo welcomed them at the airport. The Senate chairman, the National Assembly speaker, federal ministers, ministers of state, parliament members, and councillors were present at the airport to greet them. They

were given a 21-gun salute. The national anthems of the two countries were played and a contingent of the three Armed Forces presented a guard of honor. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin in Islamabad

JN222024 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq started in Islamabad tonight. During the talks, issues of concern to both Arab and Islamic countries, especially the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict were discussed. The talks also dealt with the developments in the Iraq-Iran war and ways to stop it, in addition to bilateral relations. The talks were attended by the delegation accompanying His Majesty King Husayn and senior Pakistani officials. [passage omitted]

Mideast, Afghanistan Discussed

BK230436 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has appealed to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to use his influence and special relationship with Iran to help end the Iran-Iraq war. Speaking at a banquet hosted by President Ziaul Haq in his honor in Rawalpindi last night, the Jordanian monarch urged the president to resume his efforts to persuade Iran to give a positive response to such peace moves. Referring to the Middle East problem, King Husayn praised Pakistan's consistent and wholehearted support of the Arabs in their struggle to achieve the restoration of their rights.

About the Afghanistan problem, the Jordanian king said Jordan is fully confident that Pakistan will assist in the efforts currently being made at the international level to arrive at a successful settlement of the problem to safeguard Afghanistan's independence and restore peace and stability in that country.

Earlier, in his speech, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq reaffirmed Pakistan's support for all efforts being made to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war. Referring to the Middle East, the president reiterated Pakistan's stand that the problem can be solved only by convening an international conference with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The president thanked Jordan for supporting Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan and expressed the hope that a comprehensive settlement of the problem would be achieved as a result of the current round of the Geneva proximity talks, leading to the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland. The president made it clear that Pakistan does not seek a government of its own choice in Afghanistan, but desires only to see peace and harmony in that country.

Queen Nur, Mrs Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, and the Jordanian prime minister, Zayd al-Rifa'i, also attended the banquet.

President Views Islam, Security on National Day

BK230905 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Pakistan Day is being celebrated today with great national fervor and enthusiasm. A joint services parade was held in Rawalpindi today to mark the occasion. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq reviewed the parade and took the salute. Speaking on the occasion, the president called for a thorough stocktaking to assess how far we have fulfilled the pledge of creating an Islamic state in South Asia and what remained to be done. He expressed his gratification that enforcement of Islam was paid more attention to during the last 8 to 10 years than in the past.

The president expressed his confidence that the democratically-elected government headed by the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, will accelerate the process for speedy achievement of this goal. He pointed out that the foremost prerequisite of the enforcement of Islam and economic, social and educational advancement in the country is the security of its borders. The Armed Forces, he said, played a role of the advanced party [as heard] of the nation in defending its frontiers. He paid homage to these defenders of the motherland, especially martyrs of the past wars, whose sacrifices enabled the nation to celebrate this day in peace.

King Husayn of Jordan and President Dawda Jawara of Gambia were the chief guests at the parade. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo was also present. Radio Pakistan's representative says the impressive parade featured the contingents of the three services and paramilitary forces, including the Janbaz Force, the Women's Guard, the National Cadet Corps, and Civil Defense volunteers. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

President Swears in New Ministers, Deputies

BK211333 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1311 GMT 21 Mar 88

["OANA/pcol" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 21 (LANKA PUWATH)—Two new ministers, three deputy ministers and two district ministers were sworn in this morning before Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene.

Mr J. L. Sirisena, was appointed minister of social services and Mr D. B. Welegedara, minister of plan implementation.

Galle district minister, Rupa Karunatillake was sworn in as deputy minister provincial councils.

Merryll Kariyawasam (MP) deputy minister womens affairs and teaching hospitals. [sentence as received]

Vasantha D. Udayaratne was sworn in as deputy minister for home affairs.

The two new district ministers are G. V. S. de Silva for Galle and D. M. Premachandra as acting district minister for Kurunegala.

EROS Denounces Hunt for LTTE's Prabhakaran

BK191710 Hong Kong AFP in English 1638 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Madras, India, March 19 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil militant group said here Saturday that Indian troops in the island nation were now on a massive hunt to capture the chief of Tamil rebels dead or alive. Mathavan, a spokesman for the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), said that some 6,000 soldiers of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) were engaged in a combing operation in the jungles of Vavuniya to get at Velupillai Prabhakaran dead or alive. Mr. Mathavan, whose party is an ally of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant militant group headed by Mr. Prabharakaran, denounced the IPKF hunt and said this was indicative of seeking a military solution to the separatist problem rather than a negotiated one.

"Under these circumstances the continuation of military operations, especially with an objective of capturing Mr. Prabhakaran, would only bring about dismay in the minds of Tamils," he said in this southern Indian port city where all Sri Lankan separatist groups have their offices. Meanwhile, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported that Security Forces had recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including anti-tank rockets, after arresting three Sri Lankan Tamils in the federally-administered tiny Indian state of Pondicherry.

Search Continues

BK211000 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1025 GMT 21 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo Mar 21 (LANKA PUWATH)—Latest official reports received by LANKA PUWATH today on operation 'Vajra', the massive manhunt for LTTE leader Velupillai Prabakaran, state that Indian troops in northern Sri Lanka raided another major LTTE base at Puddikurippu in the Mullaitivu District in which five women terrorists who attacked the IPKF were killed and a large haul of weapons made. The weapons seized included 1 light machine gun, three AK-47 rifles, radio transmitters and three vehicles.

The official sources said that in another raid at Mutigankuttu, in Mullaitivu, two male LTTE terrorists were killed in another confrontation with the IPKF in a triangle, as Indian troops continued to hound the LTTE in its efforts to capture the LTTE leader Prabakaran dead or living who is reported to be on the run in a triangle comprising Kuchchaveli north of Trincomalee, Mullaitivu in the northeast, and Denis Point north of Mannar. In this raid the IPKF captured eight rocket propelled grenade launchers and shells, one Sterling machine gun, one G-3 rifle, one T-56 rifle, three AK-47 rifles, 500 rounds of ammunition and two radio transmitters.

At Karippululam, also in the Mullaitivu area, one IPKF soldier was killed and another wounded in an encounter with the LTTE. Meanwhile a report from the Ampara sector states that Balasunderam Ravindrarajah, a goldsmith of Medina Gold House, was shot dead by LTTE terrorists after he had refused to pay them 100,000 rupees extortion money.

Operation Denied

BK211610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] An official spokesman made it clear in New Delhi today that the operations of the peacekeeping force [PKF] in Sri Lanka are not aimed at hunting for any individual. Responding to queries by newsmen, he described as baseless a news agency report from Colombo that the PKF is hunting for the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran, in its present operations. He said the report is exaggerated and gives a distorted perspective of the PKF operation.

The agency report had stated that the 6,000 men of the PKF are hunting for Mr Prabhakaran to catch him dead or alive. The spokesman recalled that the policy on PKF operations in regard to current developments in Sri Lanka was spelt out by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in parliament on the 17th of this month. The minister had noted that the LTTE has been carrying on a campaign of physical violence against fellow Tamils and others in Northern and Eastern Provinces. The PKF operations are being conducted in the wake of this violence to ensure that peace is restored in the island as soon as possible. Mr Natwar Singh had said it is our hope that the LTTE will renounce violence and join the democratic process.

The spokesman did not agree with the question that there is no communication between the government and the LTTE. He drew attention of the newsmen to the same statement of Mr Natwar Singh in which he clearly stated that at no given point of time has the communication between the LTTE and the government broken

down. The minister had stated that there are various channels, avenues, and organizations through which we are in touch with the LTTE.

IPKF Continues Crackdown on LTTE Rebels

23 'Terrorists' Apprehended

BK190938 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0900 GMT 19 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 19 Mar (LANKA PUWATH)—Indian High Commission sources told LANKA PUWATH that in cordon and search operations conducted by the IPKF in the Batticaloa sector yesterday, the Indian troops apprehended 23 LTTE terrorists. They said that military radio intercepts confirmed that two Gurkha soldiers who overran the heavily guarded LTTE bunker in Vavuniya after a fierce fight which left two terrorists dead had dealt the terrorists a terrific blow. Meanwhile official sources told LANKA PUWATH that IPKF operations in the Vavuniya-Mullaitivu sectors have been intensified. In operations conducted by the IPKF in Sri Lanka's Northern Province, the Indian troops captured two terrorists on interrogation [as received]. The IPKF seized 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 2 hand grenades, 1 electric detonator, 50 safety fuses, and 100 meters cordex wire at Kayts.

64 Suspected Rebels Arrested

BK191702 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Colombo, March 19 (AFP)—Indian troops have arrested 64 suspected Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka over the past two days, officials and residents said Saturday. All those detained were suspected fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is waging a bush war against some 50,000 Indian troops in the island, they said. In a related development, an LTTE guerrilla was shot dead in the eastern Batticaloa District Friday by a rival left-wing group, residents said. Gunmen from the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) killed the rebel, known as Gadaffi, at Manmunai Seri village, they said.

Thirty-four suspected militants were arrested Thursday in Batticaloa and the northern districts of Jaffna and Vavuniya, and 22 were arrested Friday, in search operations in Jaffna, Vavuniya and Trincomalee in the northeast, an Indian High Commission spokeswoman said. She gave no further details. Eight other suspected LTTE fighters, including three local commanders, were held after a dramatic swoop on an inter-school sports meet near Batticaloa town Friday, local residents said. Soldiers made the arrests after a tip-off from another rival Tamil group, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO), that the eight were watching the games, they told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone. They said one of the three commanders, Chutti, tried to escape by climbing on to the roof of a nearby house, but the roof gave way and he was caught. [passage omitted]

Some 390 Indian soldiers and 1,360 suspected LTTE fighters have died since New Delhi launched an offensive in October to disarm the LTTE. The LTTE has also been accused of killing more than 1,000 members of rival groups, including the EPRLF and TELO, whose supporters are now reportedly helping the Indians in fighting the LTTE.

Operation 'Lightning' Completed

BK211155 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] The IPKF completed a large-scale operation, code named "Lightning," against Tamil extremists. According to press reports it was conducted in difficult areas of the Jaffna Peninsula and in the eastern coast. During the operation, 64 terrorists were arrested and their military camps and arms depots were destroyed. Representatives of the Indian military command told journalists that during military operations, Indian troops had received evidence that LTTE gunmen had been trained by foreign instructors who had drilled bandits, in tactics of guerrilla warfare.

Speaking in Madras, the Indian spokesman said that the main aim of the "Lightning Operation" had been to mop up LTTE's strongholds in the strategic important areas and to create conditions for restoring stability and holding elections to provincial councils, which is provided for by the Indian-Lankan peace agreement. He expressed concern over continued assassinations by Tamil extremists of prominent Sri Lankan politicians ,as well as over LTTE terrorist actions as a result of democratic political process in the country aimed at ending the ethnic conflict between Tamils and Sinhalese and restoring peace and stability in Sri Lanka and with Indian Government. [sentence as heard]

The spokesman said it [India] fully abides by its commitments and takes all measures under agreement signed last year when serving the interest of the Tamil and Sinhalese communities and for returning home Tamil refugees staying in India. Over 6,500 Tamils have returned since December 1987. Strong deployment of Sri Lankan Security Forces is in progress to secure mainly Sinhala villages from attacks by LTTE terrorists in the Trincomalee District. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the Sri Lankan Security Forces are now positioned to patrol areas outside the perimeters of Sinhala villages and pursue terrorists who attempt to attack these villages. The new measures have been taken in cooperation with the IPKF.

Official sources also said that the police force is being significantly strengthened in order to ensure maximum security to Sinhala and Muslim villages in the Trincomalee District. A number of these villages had been targets of terrorist attacks.

LTTE Rebels Kill 13 in 2 Attacks; 4 Wounded

BK220755 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0735 GMT 22 Mar 88

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, March 22 (LANKA PUWATH) Nine persons from two families including six children below the age of 16 were shot dead by LTTE terrorists a little after midnight at Madawachikum in Sri Lanka's Vavuniya district early this morning, official sources told LANKA PUWATH today. They said that 2 hours later at 1430 hours local time [as received] the terrorists struck again at another village at Pahalapudukulama, 1 mile away from the first village, and shot dead two men and two women. Four others including a woman were wounded.

Attack Police Station

BK231106 Hong Kong AFP in English 1042 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Text] Colombo, March 23 (AFP)—Tamil rebels attacked a police station in Sri Lanka's east Wednesday, causing hundreds of people to flee the scene of the fighting, witnesses said. Policemen and Indian troops were firing at the attackers and smoke could be seen billowing from near the police station in Batticaloa town, residents said by telephone. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Police sources in Batticaloa, some 300 kilometres (187 miles) from here, said there were "several attacks" on the police station Wednesday morning. The attackers were believed to be from the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), but their numbers were not known.

"There is heavy firing in the area," a Tamil resident said. "We can see a lot of smoke, but we don't know what is burning." Hundreds of people fled the area in panic after the shooting broke out, the residents said, adding that Indian troops had sealed off all roads around the police station. Meanwhile, a suspected Tamil rebel lobbed a hand grenade at an Indian Army patrol in Batticaloa Tuesday, wounding a woman and some soldiers, and Indian troops conducted house-to-house searches in the Tamil-dominated town Tuesday and Monday to capture LTTE fighters believed to be hiding there.

In the island's north, a land mine laid by the LTTE wounded an Indian soldier overnight, officials said. The mine went off at Puloli in the Jaffna peninsula when an army patrol was passing through, a military official said. Land mines have accounted for the majority of the 390 fatalities suffered by Indian troops in Sri Lanka. Indian soldiers also seized 36 mortar bombs and seven claymore mines from an LTTE hideout at Navatkuli, also in Jaffna, Tuesday, the official added. Some 52,000 Indian troops are in Sri Lanka's north and east to implement a peace accord to end the Tamil separatist campaign. More than 1,360 fighters of the LTTE, which has rejected the agreement, have also died since India launched an offensive October 10 to disarm the group.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed

BK231156 Hong Kong AFP in English 1146 GMT 23 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Colombo, March 23 (AFP)—Indian troops clamped an indefinite curfew on the eastern Sri Lankan town of Batticaloa after Tamil rebels attacked a police station there Wednesday sparking off a fire-fight, witnesses said. An unknown number of Tamil militants threw two grenades at the police station, causing hundreds of people to flee the scene in panic, residents said when contacted by telephone. The attack was apparently aimed at an Indian Army post inside the police station, the largest in Tamil-dominated Batticaloa town about 300 kilometres (187 miles) from here. Policemen and Indian troops then opened fire as snipers from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam joined in the attack, the residents said, adding that the shooting lasted for more than two-and-a-half hours. Hospital sources in Batticaloa said at least seven people had been seriously wounded. All them of had gunshot wounds. [passage omitted]

Indian troops sealed off all roads near the police station and later went around the town of nearly 50,000 people, announcing the curfew over loud hailers. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Wednesday, the Sri Lankan Government announced restricted hours for fishing off the country's troubled northern and eastern provinces. A government communique issued here said each boat could have a maximum crew of four and could fish only up to five miles from the coast. It also prescribed colour codes for the fishermen's clothes. Fishing in the area was halted by the government last year after Tamil rebels were said to have used fishermen to smuggle in arms. [passage omitted]

Citizen Council Chairman Killed; Curfew Imposed

BK211309 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] The chairman of the Kalmunai Citizens Council was shot dead yesterday. The LTTE terrorists are suspected of shooting him. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that following the killing of the chairman of the Citizens Council, Kandaiah Velmurugan, a 20-hour curfew was imposed in Kalmunai.

Indian Response to LTTE Peace Overtures Viewed
BK190918 Colombo SUN in English 1 Mar 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Eavesdropping"]

[Text] Indian envoy Jyotindra Nath Dixit seems rather perturbed about the reported overtures by the Tiger terrorists to Sri Lanka officials in an apparent bid to return to the political process. Mr Dixit by his own admission has found from his own sources that some extraordinary proposals' are being bandied around. Strangely enough the diplomatic rebuttal came hardly twenty-four hours after the National Security Minister disclosed that the LTTE had made such overtures not only to the Sri Lanka government but to the Indians as well. One is at a loss to comprehend why the envoy apparently lost his cool over this and envisaged the wreckage of the peace accord. He went further to warn against any unilateral agreement between the Tigers and Sri Lanka.

Even if his fears and allegations had some basis, what inherent right has a foreign diplomat for such nosey parking [as published] into an internal matter like having talks aimed at ending the bloody conflict. At a time when the mightly alien army has so far failed to disarm the ruthless enemy such an attitude by India sounds selfish. Does the accord prohibit such overtures particularly when the main objective evidently is to seek a peaceful solution to the present confrontation? The concern expressed over the accord and the aspirations of the Tamil minority is of course laudable. But one should not be blinded by such altruism, when one considers both the situation on the ground and the geo-political aspects that demand an urgent end to the bloodshed.

Any speedy settlement of the Tiger menace means the early pull-out of the peace forces. This seems to be an irksome factor to the Indians; especially to those who wish to prolong their sway over the northern and eastern seaboards of this island. Just as much as the Indians are wary, there are many Sri Lankans who feel they should be cautious in dealing with the killers of the LTTE. The Tigers have never proved themselves to be a credible factor. They have always been ruthlessly deceptive. Past experience tells us that they cannot be trusted. The Indian reservations were not made on such a score, but on the reported contacts between the Tigers and Lankan officials.

Does Mr Dixit deny us the right of talking to our fellow countrymen of the north and the east except at his chancery and through his good offices. Next he might demand that any talks between the government and the official opposition without his immediate presence and patronage would be tantamount to an unfriendly act towards India. Mr Dixit must know that Lanka is a free and sovereign land.